

2025 ACL Mini-Grant Proposal for professional development for individual members – revised Aug. 7, 2024

Proposal: ACL will offer yearly mini-grants to support individual members who would like to attend professional development training and conferences. In a recent survey, professional development was one of the most popular assets that our members appreciated about ACL. Often, members must pay for such opportunities out of their own pockets (not their employers), so financial assistance could encourage more people to attend these trainings.

Who can apply: any ACL member.

Amount of each grant: Grants can be given for up to \$500 to fund travel and/or registration to professional development opportunities specifically for youth services staff. These can include (but not limited to):

American Library Association conferences: [American Library Association \(ala.org\)](http://ala.org).

California Library Association conferences: [California Library Association \(cla-net.org\)](http://cla-net.org)

Infopeople courses: [Welcome! | Infopeople](http://infopeople.org).

Children's Literature Festival, Redlands California: [Children's Literature Festival 2025 | University of Redlands](http://childrensliteraturefestival.org)

ALSC Institute: [ALSC National Institute Schedule | Association for Library Service to Children \(ala.org\)](http://alsc.org)

We plan to offer two opportunities per year to apply, based on when trainings are scheduled. There would be a Spring/Summer application, and a Fall/Winter application deadline.

Extra criteria that we will ask of those applying for a grant: List possible costs of the professional development opportunity (registration, travel, housing), and what funds you may receive other than the ACL grant for this event (such as funds from your employer).

Will you be receiving other financial support to attend this event?

Will this be your first time attending this event?

Have you attended other similar conferences or training opportunities?

Priority will be given to training/events that focus on youth services. First-time attendance will be prioritized over those who have repeatedly attended similar opportunities.

Recipient's obligation to ACL: to present a brief overview of what you learned from this professional development event. If a grant is awarded, **a brief follow-up report** is due two months after the date of the event. This written report will be followed up with a brief oral report at an upcoming ACL meeting (either in person or over Zoom) to be scheduled by the grant recipient and the ACL President.

The funds will be a reimbursement; it will be sent after you attend the event. If a person needed the funds ahead of time to register, make a special request and we can consider that. (Penny will check with Josh).

From Shani Boyd, Penny Peck, Armin Arethna