

New TSLAC Grant: Library Technology Academy

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) is excited to announce the opening of a new grant opportunity:

Library Technology Academy!

TSLAC is looking for five qualified libraries serving communities with populations under 25,000 to be a part of a brand new pilot grant program. The goal of the program is to provide an in-depth learning opportunity for small and rural library staff to acquire, develop, and implement the skills and tools needed to manage library technology strategically. Selected applicants will attend an in-person training in Austin, Texas, and then continue their learning via a six-week online course taught by an expert in library technology management.

Following the training, each library will implement their own technology project. The grant funding will enable participants to:

- Travel to an in-person training in Austin, Texas.
- Purchase materials and services to implement a project informed by library management strategies and best practices as outlined in the Library Technology Academy training. TSLAC will work in collaboration with selected libraries to approve projects proposed.

This pilot program is informed by the needs of small and rural Texas library staff who requested strategic, intentional and proactive technology planning. After three successful rounds of the one-day You Can Do I.T. workshops, Library Technology Academy is TSLAC's answer to an in-depth training program modeled after the Family Place Libraries Project.

Expectations: If chosen to participate, libraries can expect to send two participants per library to attend the in-person Library Technology Academy training in Austin, Texas. At least one representative should be a full-time, paid staff member (director, assistant director, or manager). The other participant may be another library staff member (full or part-time of the same library) or a library volunteer, city/county I.T. person or community partner of the same library. The same participants should also expect to take part in a six (6) week synchronous online training program and dedicate approximately 20 percent of their time during the grant period to complete project deliverables. The Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found in full here: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/librarytechacademy/resources>

Funding: Following the training, TSLAC and the Library Technology Academy will provide funding support up to \$11,000 to participating libraries to buy supplies necessary to launch a library technology project location at their facility and for travel and lodging to the in-person training.

Application Process: We will begin accepting applications beginning today, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018! The application will close on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. The application is entirely online and can be accessed after logging into the Texas State Library & Archives Commission Grants Management System.

Timeline: Successful applicants will be notified in early November 2018. In-person and online training will take place in late 2018 and early 2019. The project will end on Aug. 31, 2019.