

Memo

To: Montana Land Information Advisory Council

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator

Date: March 3, 2016

Re: Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) Council Draft Executive Planning Process (EPP) recommendation

As is well known to this Council, MLIA account funds have proven to be a very volatile source of funding from which to build a statewide GIS program. Increases and decreases that mirror state and national economic trends is striking. The significant fluctuation in the funds available to support statewide GIS coordination, including development of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and a GIS grant program, makes it extremely difficult to plan for and implement programs that continue to move the state forward.

In order to provide a more secure and stable degree of funding the State Library proposes an EPP request to fund the GIS grant program described in 90-1-404 MCA from state general fund dollars in the amount of \$300,000 annually. As a restricted appropriation, these monies would ensure that the State Library could encourage and plan for grants with confidence in the funds that would be available. This request also recognizes the value that GIS technology brings to local government services and the essential role local governments play to provide foundational data for much of the state and federal spatial data infrastructure.

While local stakeholders would benefit most directly from funds that are granted to local governments, ensuring a source of funds for grants would also alleviate some of the pressure on the MLIA account which is currently stretched thin and must be supplemented, when possible, through grants and contracts, to support both MSDI development and a grant program.

The following draft EPP request is shared with the Council for discussion purposes. Feedback from the Council meeting will be shared with the Montana State Library Commission in April. Action will be requested from the Council to approve a final EPP request recommendation in May. All EPP requests must be submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning by May 30.



2017 Legislation & Budget Request Form

Please use this form to submit proposed budget requests for the 2017 Legislature. Please submit forms to Jennie by end of day, Friday, March 11, 2016.

Date: March 4, 2016

Staff Person: Evan Hammer

Proposal Name:

Brief description of proposal:

This request is for an appropriation of state general fund monies to support the grant program described in 90-1-404, MCA.

How will the proposal positively impact the communities we serve?

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How does this proposal support MSL's [long range plan](#) and/or other planning documents such as the Library Development Study Task Force recommendations?

This proposal supports every goal of the long range plan as is evidenced by past grants. Over the years grants have been used to:

- develop and improve data that significantly improves the overall MSDI data collection;
- develop tools and applications that make GIS data more accessible to a wide variety of stakeholders;
- train GIS and non GIS practitioners in the use of various GIS technologies to both build capacity to grow GIS programs and to encourage the use of GIS maps and other data;
- collaborate with partners both locally and statewide to support the goals of annual land plans;
- ensure the State Library's ability to meet the needs of our users and to development sustainable GIS programs around Montana.

FTE Required?.....Yes No
Estimated Number?

Cost of proposal and proposed source of funding:

\$300,000 from the State General Fund

Please list other entities involved in developing the proposal:

- Montana Land Information Advisory Council
- Montana Association of Counties

Please identify interested constituencies or persons who may be called upon to testify in support of this

proposal:

- Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
- Past grant recipients
- MLIA council members

Other relevant information to consider when evaluating this proposal:

The State Library has tried for years, without success, to fund support for MSDI by making requests for operational funding and FTE. We believe we are likely to be more successful if we pursue funds for the grant program which supports local governments primarily.