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# Nioga Library System

## Sources of Financial Support

*Serving Libraries in Niagara, Orleans  
and Genesee Counties*

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# *Public Library System State Aid*

## **Overview**

New York State pioneered public library systems in the 1940's, 1950's and early 1960's. System boundaries follow county lines and most include two or more counties. The 23 public library systems assist 744 member public libraries and over 441 branches and other outlets to provide better and more cost-effective services to their customers. They also provide direct services to those who live in areas not served by any library and to those in institutions including nursing homes, county jails and State correctional facilities. The number of member libraries in each system varies from 14 to over 60.

The services provided by public library systems are the most extensive of any of the types of systems and include delivery of library materials among libraries, building joint catalogs of serials and monographs, locating and requesting hard-to-find materials, ordering, cataloging and processing books and other materials selected by their members, maintaining a shared collection of books and audio-visual materials, serving as a regional sub-lending agency for the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library, providing or advising on computer services, providing or coordinating Internet access, assisting members in achieving minimum standards and providing electronic information services, advising members on writing grant proposals, providing continuing education for both member library staff and library trustees and more.

Public library systems have greatly increased the ability of their member libraries to provide services to the public over the years, both by extending the value of local funds through greater cost-effectiveness and by increasing their access to the resources available in other libraries or on the Internet. Systems have also provided training for untrained library staff in very small communities, and consultant services on all levels.

## **General Description of the Aid Formula**

The Nioga Library System, chartered in 1959, serves 21 member public libraries in three counties (Niagara, Orleans and Genesee) with a population of 324,462 according to the 2000 census.

State aid to Nioga is based on a formula found in New York State Education Law §272 and §273 with additional guidelines and rules explained in Commissioner's Regulations 90.3 and 90.10.

The formula pays aid based on the number of counties served, per capita, square mileage, and book expenditure reimbursement. It contains a due minimum amount (\$675,000) as well as a factor for local services aid to the system and its members and an amount for automation aid.

In addition, other public library system aid is administered by the Division of Library Development and paid to systems as discrete programs or categorical aid such as Central Library Development Aid, Central Book Aid, Coordinated Outreach, Interinstitutional Aid, and State-Operated Corrections Aid, to name a few.

**Basic System Aid**

State Aid to the System is based on the number of counties served, per capita, square mileage, book expenditure reimbursement, due minimum, Local Services Aid and Automation Aid.

The Statutory References for System Aid are Education Law §272, §273 and Commissioner’s Regulations 90.3. The exact amount of Library and Library Service aid is dependant upon what is negotiated in the State Budget. The amount received by the Nioga Library System for calendar year 2006 is:

• Annual Grant	\$ 75,000
• Per Capita	\$303,302
• Book Expenditure Reimbursement	\$219,410
• Square Mileage	\$ 87,358
• Automation	\$ 76,500
• Supplementry Aid	<u>\$45,000</u>
o Total	\$806,570

The annual grant is for the three counties served at \$25,000 per county. The aid amounts for Per Capita and Book Reimbursement are population based, currently New York State is using the population of the three county area from the 1990 census. The per capita aid is \$.94 times the 1990 census population served figure of 322,662. The book expenditure reimbursement is based on a maximum of \$.68 per capita times the population served of 322,662. The square mileage factor is \$62 per square mile for three counties served with a total area of 1,409 square miles. Automation aid is an annual allocation of \$76,500 per library system.

Payment of Basic System Aid is made usually in July or August. In order for the payment of aid to be released, the System’s annual report for the previous year and current year’s budget must be filed with and approved by the Division of Library Development. Also, the appropriate aid application form, FS-10, must be filed. The deadline for the annual report to be filed is March 1st.

**Local Library Services Aid and Local Services Support Aid**

The Statutory References for Local Library Services Aid (LLSA) and Local Services Support Aid (LSSA) are found in Education Law §272, §273 and

Commissioner's Regulations 90.3, 90.9 and 90.10. The Nioga Library System and its 21 member public libraries are eligible for both LLSA and LSSA.

Each chartered and registered public and association library that is a member of a public library system and meets minimum public library standards is eligible to receive Local Library Services Aid. The funds may be spent for any library purpose as determined by the local library's board of trustees.

The amount of aid paid to the local library under LLSA is equal to thirty-one cents per capita of the population of the library's chartered service area based on the last decennial federal census. The minimum amount a local library will receive is \$1,500 and no library will receive less than the amount of Local Library Incentive Aid it received in 1991. Local Library Incentive Aid is the name of the aid program that preceded LLSA.

Local Library Services Aid is paid to the system for distribution to member libraries within 30 days after it is received.

Local Services Support Aid (LSSA) is paid to the System under the same statutory references as LLSA. The formula provides for Nioga to receive thirty-one cents per capita for system population living outside the chartered service areas of the member libraries plus two-thirds of the amount the members received as LLSA.

Payment of LLSA and LSSA is made to the system in two parts, 90% and 10% of each total, after passage of the state budget, approval of annual reports, and submission of the appropriate FS-10 financial form.

The chart on the following page shows the amount to be received by each Nioga member library in Local Library Services Aid for calendar year 2005.

## Local Library Services Aid (LLSA) to Members

Chapter 917, Laws of 1990 as amended

**\$.31 per capita – Minimum \$1,500**

<b>Library</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Batavia	19,244	\$6,137
Bergen	5,675	\$1,759
Corfu	795	\$1,500
LeRoy	8,511	\$2,797
Oakfield	3,203	\$1,500
Pavilion	2,467	\$1,500
Barker	2,865	\$1,500
Lewiston	13,458	\$4,172
Lockport	37,071	\$11,665
Middleport	1,917	\$1,500
Newfane	9,657	\$3,048
Niagara Falls	55,593	\$22,892
North Tonawanda	33,262	\$10,919
Ransomville	1,488	\$1,500
Sanborn	2,799	\$1,500
Wilson	5,840	\$1,810
Youngstown	3,972	\$1,519
Albion	15,861	\$4,917
Holley	9,651	\$2,992
Lyndonville	4,099	\$1,500
Medina	11,454	\$3,633
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248,882</b>	<b>\$90,260</b>

## **Coordinated Outreach Services to Special Populations**

Public library systems receive state aid to plan and implement an integrated program of outreach services to persons who are educationally disadvantaged, members of ethnic or minority groups in need of special library services, unemployed and in need of job placement assistance, living in areas underserved by a library, blind, physically handicapped, aged or confined in institutions.

Coordinated Outreach first began in 1981 and was targeted to serve those persons who were aged, blind, physically handicapped and institutionalized. The additional targeted groups were added in 1984. The funds are also used to provide a wide assortment of special collections to meet the needs of the target groups.

The Nioga Plan of Service identifies the special populations within the Nioga service area and gives a description of the services that will be provided to meet specific needs. A Coordinated Outreach Advisory Committee made up of service providers and users assist the system in determining priorities and choices of programs and services.

The statutory references for Coordinated Outreach Services to Special populations are found in Education Law §273(1)(h) and Commissioner's Regulations 90.3. The aid formula allocates each public library system with a base grant of \$43,000 plus \$.13 per capita times the system's population. Funding is released on the basis of an annual application and the appropriate FS-10 financial form.

## **Central Library Aid**

The Central Library Aid Program is a two-part program, which is intended to provide funds that will enrich the collections and services offered by the 26 central, and co-central libraries in New York State. A central library is the main reference and resource center in a public library system. The Niagara Falls Public Library is designated as Nioga's central library.

1. Central Library Development Aid funds are used for a wide range of purposes with a major portion being used to help hire more librarians and staff who can provide in-depth services to the public including reference and interlibrary loan, collection development and accessibility (Sunday hours) and other services.

Central Library Development Aid is based on population, with a minimum amount for systems with small populations. The related statutory references are found in Education Law §272, §273 and in

Commissioner's Regulations 90.4. The formula provides for \$.32 per capita times the System's population or \$105,000 whichever is greater. The aid is released on the basis of an annual application that must be approved by the trustees of Niagara Falls Public Library and the trustees of the Nioga Library System. The \$105,000, when received, is transferred to the Niagara Falls Library to be spent.

2. The Central Book Aid program provides funds to the System for the purchase of adult non-fiction materials in print, microfiche, or machine-readable format that will be housed in the Central Library. These materials remain the property of the System and are available for use by all the member libraries although they are housed at the Central Library.

Central Book Aid is a flat amount of \$71,500 paid to each public library system annually. The statutory references and payment process for Central Book Aid are the same as for Central Library Development Aid. Central Book Aid funds are retained by the System and expended on behalf of the Central Library (Niagara Falls Public Library).

The funding is released on the basis of an annual application and the appropriate FS-10 financial form.

### **Public Library System Services to State Correctional Facility Libraries**

This program provides grants to public library systems to develop and extend public library service programs to state correctional facilities. System staff works collaboratively with the facility librarians to provide interlibrary loan, deposit collections, and loans of non-book materials. The program supplements the work of the Department of Correctional Services. Systems provide library services to help inmates advance their education, personal development, as well as technical and job skills. The funds are used to create a bridge from the correctional facility library to the public libraries, through the public library systems.

Statutory references for this program are found in Education Law §285 and Commissioner's Regulations 90.14. The formula provides an allocation of \$9.25 per inmate using the prison population as of July 1 of the previous year. Based on a contract between Nioga and the two correctional facilities Nioga retains 50% of the aid to support system services with the remainder being divided proportionately between the Orleans Correctional Facility and the Albion Correctional Facility.

The funding is released on the basis of an annual application and the appropriate FS-10 financial form.

## **Public Library System Services to County Jails**

This program provides grants to the 23 public library systems specifically for improving library service to the inmates of local correctional institutions or county jails. Library materials and system staff services are made available through this program. There are three county jails within the Nioga service area, one in each county.

Funding for this program does not appear in statute. Historically, funds have been included in the Governor's Executive Budget. Of the amount that is made available, Nioga's share represents the percentage of the total inmate population census in the three county jails as of January 2, 2006.

The funds will be used to purchase periodical subscriptions and a small number of paperback books. The funding is released on the basis of an annual application and the appropriate FS-10 financial form.

## **State Aid for Public Library Construction**

State construction aid is used for acquisition, construction renovation or rehabilitation, including improvements of buildings of public libraries and public library systems chartered by the Regents or established by an act of the state legislature. The submission of construction applications is a two-step process. Applications are submitted to the library system first for review and approval at the system level before they are submitted to the Division of Library Development for review, approval and funding.

In 2006 a total of \$800,000 will be available statewide under this program, with a minimum project award of \$5,000. Statutory references are found in Education Law §273-a and Commissioner's Regulations 90.12.

Distribution of this aid is in accordance with a formula that makes sixty percent of the statewide total available to libraries who are members of public library systems and forty percent available to the library systems. Each system must adopt a plan to administer state construction aid.

Payments of state construction aid are made directly to the recipient libraries.

## **Special Legislative Grants (Member Item Projects)**

For a number of years, Nioga and its 21 member libraries have been the recipients of Special Legislative Grants also known as Member Items. These grants are made by state senators and assembly members to provide additional funding to local agencies in their districts for specific well-defined targeted projects that will benefit their constituents. Funds have been used for library materials, computer equipment, shelving and building projects including renovation as well as new construction. The grants have ranged in size from

approximately \$1,000 to over \$50,000. The System has acted as the lead agency for most of the special legislative grants but some have been awarded directly to the libraries.

Special Legislative Grants or Member Items are usually funded on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and run through June 30 of the following year. There is a time lag from the time notification is received that funding is available, until the money is actually received. It is thus necessary for member libraries to spend the cash up front and then be reimbursed for the expenditures

Beginning in 1998 member libraries and Nioga have been the recipients of “grant-in-aid” funding, also designated to fund special projects but without as much paperwork to be filed in order to obtain the money.

### **Regional Bibliographic Databases & Interlibrary Resources Sharing**

The Regional Bibliographic Data Bases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing program assists libraries in establishing or expanding technology-based services for the benefit of library users. Reference and research library resources systems, public library systems, school library systems and libraries of all types have benefited from the funding that has been expended for technology-based projects that enable:

1. access to bibliographic and full-text information and enhancement of resource sharing through the Internet and other networks,
2. the purchase of equipment and development of telecommunications infrastructure, and
3. training and continuing education in the use of technologies.

Statutory references for this aid are found in Education Law §273(6) and Commissioner’s Regulations 90.19. Under this program libraries and systems work within five-year technology plans for automation in their regions. Funds that have been received by the Nioga Library System have been channeled through the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). Each regional research council receives a base grant of \$200,000 plus two cents per capita. Over the years Nioga has received grants from under \$10,000 to almost \$30,000 but has not applied for a grant since 2000.

## ***Local Public Funding***

### **Niagara County**

Niagara County member libraries receive funds from the Niagara County Legislature to supplement their library materials budgets. Under the terms of a contract between Nioga and the Niagara County Legislature, Nioga acts as a conduit to channel these funds to the member libraries. The amount each library receives is based upon a formula that gives equal weight to each of four factors – population, circulation, local funding and amount spent for library materials. The data for calculation of each year's grant is taken from the member library's annual report for the prior year.

Nioga usually receives the grant check from the County in February or March each year, the distribution is calculated and agreed upon by the libraries in the county and the grant checks to members are released in July of each year.

The total of the Niagara County Grant for 2006 was \$249,991 of which Nioga retained \$4,109 and the remainder distributed to the 11 Niagara County public libraries.

The 2006 Niagara County Grant Distribution Chart is found on page 11.

### **Genesee County**

Since 1984 the six public libraries in Genesee County have received funding from the Genesee County Legislature on an annual basis to be used to purchase library materials. Under the terms of a contract signed between Nioga and Genesee County, Nioga agrees to distribute the grant to the member libraries on the basis of a weighted formula that considers population, circulation and expenditures for library materials. The formula also contains a maintenance of effort clause that provides for a penalty to be applied to those libraries who do not maintain effort in terms of their library materials expenditures over a three year period.

A total of \$60,370 will be distributed to Genesee County Libraries during the 2006 calendar year. The distribution chart is on page 12.

### **Orleans County**

The four public libraries in Orleans County receive funding from their county legislature. However, the funds are handled within the county and are not channeled through the System as is done with the funding granted to member libraries in the other two counties. Nioga's Executive Director provides advice, assistance and support to the member libraries in formulating their requests for funding.

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**NIAGARA COUNTY GRANT DISTRIBUTION FOR 2006**

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Adj. Pop. Dist. %	Adj. Local Funds Dist. %	Adj. Circ. Dist. %	Adj. Expend. Dist. %	Unadj. Total Dist. %	Adj. Total Dist. %	2006 Unadj. Formula Amount	2006 Adj. Formula Aid	2005 Adj Amount Actually Paid
Barker	0.33	0.19	0.20	0.16	0.88	1.42	\$ 2,158.03	\$ 3,490.00	\$ 3,490.00
Lewiston	1.53	1.65	1.65	1.64	6.47	6.47	\$ 15,929.44	\$ 15,917.00	\$ 16,892.00
Lockport	5.11	5.98	7.45	4.81	23.35	23.11	\$ 57,417.71	\$ 56,811.00	\$ 57,428.00
Middleport	1.35	0.30	0.54	0.38	2.57	2.62	\$ 6,322.65	\$ 6,448.00	\$ 6,232.00
Newfane	1.10	0.38	0.68	0.68	2.84	2.89	\$ 6,990.24	\$ 7,106.00	\$ 7,020.00
Niagara Falls	7.34	8.61	4.35	6.55	28.85	26.57	\$ 66,042.91	\$ 65,313.00	\$ 68,743.00
North Tonawanda	4.61	6.06	7.83	7.53	26.03	25.74	\$ 63,977.88	\$ 63,278.00	\$ 61,533.00
Ransomville	0.48	0.45	0.63	0.67	2.23	2.29	\$ 5,489.27	\$ 5,626.00	\$ 5,217.00
Sanborn	2.09	0.49	0.84	1.12	4.54	4.56	\$ 11,143.46	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 10,131.00
Wilson	0.56	0.32	0.39	0.73	2.00	2.06	\$ 4,922.39	\$ 5,068.00	\$ 4,059.00
Youngstown	0.50	0.56	0.44	0.72	2.22	2.29	\$ 5,488.01	\$ 5,625.00	\$ 5,137.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,882.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,882.00</b>	<b>\$ 245,882.00</b>
<b>NIOGA</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$ 4,109.22</b>	<b>\$ 4,109.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,109.00</b>
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$ 249,991.22</b>	<b>\$ 249,991.00</b>	<b>\$ 249,991.00</b>

**2006 GENESEE COUNTY LIBRARY AID DISTRIBUTION**

Library Community	Population (30%) +	Materials Expenditure (30%) +	Circulation (40%) =	Distribution Percentage (100%)	Unadjusted Allocation	Adjustments*	2006 Allocation	2005 Allocation
Batavia	13.110	14.913	22.814	50.837	\$ 30,690.26	\$ 104.74	\$ 30,795.000	\$ 31,332.00
Byron-Bergen	2.820	3.648	3.763	10.231	\$ 6,176.33	\$ 26.67	\$ 6,203.00	\$ 6,189.00
Corfu	3.772	1.292	2.581	7.645	\$ 4,615.54	\$ 7.46	\$ 4,623.00	\$ 4,124.00
LeRoy	5.068	5.862	5.914	16.845	\$ 10,169.20	\$ 43.80	\$ 10,213.00	\$ 9,817.00
Oakfield	4.003	3.233	3.517	10.753	\$ 6,491.87	\$ (189.87)	\$ 6,302.00	\$ 6,787.00
Pavilion	1.226	1.052	1.410	3.689	\$ 2,226.80	\$ 7.20	\$ 2,234.00	\$ 2,124.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30.000</b>	<b>30.000</b>	<b>40.000</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>\$ 60,370.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 60,370.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,370.00</b>

\*Adjustment per SIXTH and SEVENTH paragraphs of the Funding Agreement

# Federal Aid

## Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA)

The Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) replaced the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) a few years ago. The Division of Library Development acts as a conduit to transfer federal monies to local library systems and libraries via a comprehensive program.

The Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) like the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) which preceded it, takes into account the need to utilize local, state and federal resources in order to supplement, expand and enrich library services for all the citizens of the state. Through their local public library systems, individual libraries that are members of public library systems are eligible to participate in the LSTA program. The State Library has identified the following as some of the most pressing needs facing libraries today: (1) public policy that recognizes roles of libraries in a learning society; (2) dependable support for quality library services; (3) new ways of providing services in a period in which all public services are being examined.

Specific areas being addressed through LSTA funding within Nioga include Training for Technology and Information Empowerment through Special Services.

Starting in 2005 LSTA programs will be on a two year cycle with projects starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and ending March 31<sup>st</sup> two years after the start date.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Fiscal Year.** The Nioga Library System operates on a fiscal year that is the calendar year. This is consistent with Commissioner's Regulations 90.6, "the fiscal year of each library system shall begin with the first day of January and end with the 31st day of December." The regulations imply that a system may operate on a different fiscal year; however, reporting to the Division of Library Development and the Department of Education must be on a calendar year so changes are not really possible.

2. **Fund Balance.** The fund balance is the result of operations after revenues and expenses are closed at the end of each year over a period of years. If there is a surplus, the fund balance increases, if there is a deficit, the fund balance decreases. In Nioga's case, it is the money that is used for operations until such time as state aid is received. The excess fund balance eases the time difference in fiscal years between Nioga and New York State. Nioga operates on a calendar fiscal year, and New York State operates on a fiscal year beginning April 1. Nioga does not receive state aid for operations in any calendar year until all the proper forms have been filed with the Division of Library Development. This means that in a good year, the earliest Nioga will receive operating funds from the state is the middle of the calendar year. In the 46-year history of Nioga, the earliest date on record for receipt of state aid is May 15, 1989.

Until the early 70's, the Nioga Board of Trustees permitted the System Director and staff to expend funds during each calendar year and the amount brought over into the next fiscal year only funded operations for two or three months of the new year. The Board of Trustees would borrow funds from local lending institutions to finance day-to-day operations. The bank loans would be repaid upon receipt of state aid.

In 1972, the Board of Trustees reviewed its policy on borrowing and decided to adopt a fiscal policy that would enable day-to-day operations to be funded until receipt of state aid without borrowing in anticipation of state aid. Nioga, unlike school districts and other municipal corporations, cannot borrow money at preferential interest rates. Rather, Nioga must pay the market rate for any funds borrowed in anticipation of state aid receipts.

This prudent management goal has been accomplished over the last twenty-five years by building the year-end fund balance up to an amount that will fund approximately six months of operations without using monies that are designated for member libraries or other special purposes.

3. **Basis of Accounting.** The financial records for the Nioga Library System are maintained using the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed by the Office of the State Comptroller pursuant to General Municipal Law, Section 36. The System of Accounts provides for a standard chart of accounts and fund. Accounting is on a modified accrual basis and should be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). In addition, procedural regulations are further described in Section 90.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education entitled "Financial Accounting in

Cooperative Public Library Systems and Reference and Research Library Systems.”

3. **Bank Accounts.** The Nioga Library System has account relationships established with HSBC Bank USA has checking and savings accounts.
4. **System Funds.** Revenues and Expenses for the day-to-day operations of the Nioga Library System are accounted for in the System’s General Fund through a checking account with HSBC.
5. **Capital Funds.** Nioga’s Capital fund accounts for monies that have been set aside to use for major purposes such as purchases of vehicles, major equipment and building projects. This account is located at HSBC.
6. **Special Revenue Funds.** This fund accounts for those revenues that are designated for specific projects or monies that are being passed through to member libraries such as Niagara and Genesee County Grants, Central Book Aid, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This account is located at HSBC.
7. **Library Automation Association (LAA).** The contract between Nioga and the member libraries participating in the Automated Library Management System (ALMS) computer project provides for a separate accounting for all funds. Operations for this project are accounted for in a checking account with HSBC Bank. The LAA also has a capital fund in the form of a commercial market rate investment account at HSBC that contains monies being set aside for future use when the computer system is upgraded.
8. **Audits.** In accordance with Commissioner’s Regulations, an annual audit of the system’s financial records is performed by a New York State licensed certified public accountant.

The last audit performed by the Office of the State Comptroller was in the early 1980’s. As a rule cooperative public library systems such as Nioga have not been audited by the state in recent years.

There has been only one Internal Revenue Service Audit performed since the establishment of the System. It was done in 1997 and was based on the 1994 Form 990 Return of Organizations Exempt from Income Tax. There was no change in Nioga’s Exempt status as a result of the audit.

9. **Tax Exempt Status.** The Nioga Library System is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, organized and operated exclusively for

literary purposes. Contributions made to the System are deductible by the donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code.

The Nioga Library is exempt from state and local sales and use taxes under New York State Exempt Organization Certificate #EX-131112.

10. **Civil Service.** The Nioga Library System is a cooperative public library system and pursuant to a ruling by the New York State Department of Civil Service is not a civil division of the state, therefore the provisions of the Civil Service Law with reference to appointments and promotions of personnel in such systems do not apply.
11. **Competitive Bidding.** As a cooperative library system, Nioga is not legally required to obtain competitive bids for purchases of goods and services over a specific dollar amount. [“Library systems do not fall within the definition of ‘political subdivision’ contained in General Municipal Law §100(1) and, thus, are not compelled to comply with competitive bidding requirements when purchasing items for the system itself” (Op. State Compt. No. 77-634). “A cooperative library system is generally composed of public and free association libraries. The purchases made by such a library system are not specifically exempted by statute from bidding requirement. However, a library system is not an agency of a municipality or a political subdivision, nor does it fall within the term “political subdivision” so as to be within the competitive bidding provisions of Section 103 of the General Municipal Law. Since there are no statutes requiring contracts of a cooperative library system to be let pursuant to competitive bidding requirements, it would follow that the contracts of the system for the purchase of equipment or items for its own use and for repairs of the roof of its building would not have to be competitively let.” Op. State Compt. No. 62-853, , and No. 76-573.]

As a matter of prudent business operations, we do obtain quotations or estimates from several vendors when making major capital purchases or projects.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT SUMMARY – AID RECEIVED IN 2006**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Special Purpose</b>	<b>Pass -Through</b>
Basic System Aid	\$730,070.00		
Automation		\$76,500.00	
LLSA/LSSA	\$92,123.00		\$90,260.00
Outreach	\$85,170.00		
Central Library			\$105,000.00
Central Book Aid		\$71,500.00	
Corrections	\$13,145.00	\$13,144.00	
Jails		\$3,621.00	
Niagara County	\$4,109.00		\$245,882.00
Genesee County			\$60,370.00

Legend:

LLSA = Local Library Support Aid

LSSA = Local Services Support Aid.