

AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES; ENACTING THE RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT ACT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING A FUND.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Rural Library Development Act".

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Rural Library Development Act:

A. "division" means the library division of the cultural affairs department; and

B. "rural library" means a public library in a municipality or unincorporated village, tribes, Indian nations, pueblos or community with a population of less than fifteen thousand as determined by the latest federal decennial census.

Section 3. RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.--

A. The division shall establish a rural library development program that provides grants-in-aid to:

(1) improve existing rural libraries' collections and services and provide resources to plan and establish new rural libraries;

(2) improve access to library materials and technology for rural citizens;

(3) connect rural libraries to

communications networks, such as wire New Mexico and national
lambdarail;

(4) provide professional development to
librarians and other library staff in rural libraries; and

(5) provide support for rural libraries to
participate in the New Mexico group catalog and the New Mexico
library portal, a statewide resource-sharing network.

B. Municipalities and counties may apply for rural
library development grants-in-aid to improve or connect a
rural library and provide training and supplemental salaries
not to exceed forty percent of compensation for a period not
to exceed three years to rural librarians. A grant-in-aid may
be awarded for qualifying rural libraries based on an
application process developed by the division.

C. The division shall establish by rule the
application and grant process to distribute available money
equitably across the state. Priority shall be given to rural
libraries that are:

(1) located more than twenty miles from a
municipality with a population of greater than fifty thousand
as determined by the latest federal decennial census; and

(2) being connected to wire New Mexico and
national lambdarail.

Section 4. RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND--CREATED--

PURPOSE.--The "rural library development fund" is created as a

nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations; other revenue credited to the fund; gifts, grants and donations to the fund; and income from investment of the fund. The fund shall be administered by the division, and money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the legislature to carry out the provisions of the Rural Library Development Act. No more than five percent of the fund each year may be used for administration. Disbursements from the fund shall be by warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the state librarian or the state librarian's authorized representative.