

INABILITY TO MEET THE MATCHING REQUIREMENT

The following guidance is meant to assist State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) having difficulty meeting the statutory matching requirement in full or in part. PLEASE NOTE: An SLAA should NOT submit a drawdown for funds if the agency is unable to meet the required matching amount.

Background:

When a Federal agency enters into an assistance agreement with an eligible recipient, the agency approves an entire project or program. When a statutory matching requirement applies, only part of the project or program costs can be supported with Federal funds. By law, the non-Federal entity is responsible for providing the remaining portion of the project costs, using funding from non-Federal sources. The non-Federal entity “matches” to assume its share of the cost in relation to the Federal share.

IMLS’s authorizing legislation includes a Federal matching requirement in its provisions for the Grants to States Program. SLAAs are required to meet the matching requirement of their Federal LSTA awards, as follows:

Federal share

- (1) In general
The Federal share shall be 66 percent.
- (2) Non-Federal share
The non-Federal share of payments shall be provided from non-Federal, State, or local sources.

20 U.S.C. § 9133(b). Pursuant to this provision, an SLAA must contribute 34 percent of the total LSTA program funding from non-Federal resources. The non-Federal match may include contributions from a State, from local sources, or from other non-Federal entities, including corporations and foundations. The match may include, but is not limited to, State funds.

What should a State do if it isn’t able to fully meet the matching requirement?

When drawing down funds, a State is representing to IMLS that it is able to meet the matching requirement for the specific amount requested. States should monitor the amount of funds available to match the amount of funds requested in each drawdown in order to ensure that they are not requesting funds for which they are unable to meet their corresponding matching contribution amount.

What are the consequences for failure to meet the required level of matching contributions?

The detailed language of IMLS's authorizing statute does not permit the agency to waive the matching requirement. A State is required to return to IMLS whatever portion of Federal grant funds for which it cannot satisfy its matching obligation.

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