

## Overview of the Moving PA Forward Grant

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries establishes a five-year plan for the use of the Library Services and Technology Act funds in Pennsylvania based on the priorities established by IMLS for the LSTA program. The second goal in Pennsylvania's Five-Year Plan for 2013-2017 is to create opportunities for libraries to enhance their capacity to provide 21st Century resources, services, and programs to their communities. The Moving PA Forward Grant is offered to help meet this goal.

PA Forward, a Pennsylvania initiative to position libraries to become community centers of information, technology and learning, promises to fuel educational and economic opportunities for all citizens. This initiative is built upon the library's role in helping citizens improve their command of the following five literacies that are essential to success in all roles of life:

- **Basic Literacy-** To ensure a trained and skilled workforce and a growing economy, tax base, and population. Programs can cover early literacy as well as adult literacy.
- **Information Literacy** – To ensure citizens know how to use online resources and current technology to improve education, to enhance job skills and to fully participate in a digital society.
- **Civic and Social Literacy** – To ensure that citizens have the knowledge and skills to improve their lives, to participating and effectively contribute to, their communities, and connect with one another through discourse.
- **Health Literacy** – To ensure active citizens have the ability to manage their own and their family's well-being, are empowered to be effective partners with their healthcare providers, and live longer, more productive lives.
- **Financial Literacy** – To ensure that citizens are informed consumers, and individuals, small businesses, and organizations contribute to the economic vitality of their community through innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Additional information about PA Forward is available at <http://www.paforward.org/>.

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries is accepting LSTA grant applications from libraries for collections and programs that focus on the five PA Forward literacies. Grants from \$5,000 up to \$25,000 may be awarded to individual applicants for Moving PA Forward projects.