

Agenda Date: April 27, 2021

April 9, 2021

Honorable Lina Hidalgo, County Judge
Commissioners of Harris County
1001 Preston
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Judge Hidalgo and Commissioners:

I respectfully request that Judge Hidalgo be authorized to sign the Accreditation in the State Library System Application form. This will give authorization for the Harris County Public Library (HCPL) to apply for continuing system membership in the Texas State Library System.

Sincerely,



Edward Melton
Executive Director, Harris County Public Library

Cc: Daisy Torres, Financial Services Division Director



**ACCREDITATION IN STATE LIBRARY SYSTEM
APPLICATION
Local Fiscal Year 2020**

LIBRARY NAME Harris County Public Library **CITY** Houston, TX

This authorization for application should only be completed if the library is applying for membership in the Texas Library System for State fiscal year 2022, Sept 1, 2021 – Aug 31, 2022. It must be submitted as part of its 2020 Annual Report on or before April 30, 2021, if the library is applying for accreditation.

The below signed certify, to the best of their ability, that the information contained in this Annual Report is complete and accurate for local fiscal year 2020.

Governing Authority*		
Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge		
Printed Name and Title	Date	Signature
Library Director		
Edward Melton, Executive Director		
Printed Name	Date	Signature
Library Board Chair		
Printed Name	Date	Signature

** All applicable signatures are necessary, based on library's legal establishment. Signatures of the City Secretary, County Clerk or similar positions are not valid substitutions for the signatures of Mayor, City Manager or County Judge. Electronic signatures are acceptable.*

Check one:

The library has met all minimum standards of library accreditation, per 13 TAC §1.71-§1.85.

The library has **not** met all minimum standards of library accreditation.

To prevent hardship to libraries and their communities due to the current community health situation, the Commission has adopted an emergency rule creating a waiver for libraries for certain standards, including, but not limited to, §1.74 (relating to Local Operating Expenditures) and §1.81 (relating to Quantitative Standards for Accreditation of Library), particularly the subsections pertaining to minimum expenditures and weekly hours open for service.

The new emergency waiver provision offers assurance to libraries that they will not necessarily lose accreditation if they fail to meet an accreditation standard due to a situation created by a disaster, emergency, or other extraordinary hardship. In these very challenging times, the Commission is committed to supporting libraries throughout the state and working to ensure that we continue to serve the people of Texas. Now more than ever, libraries are desperately needed, and the Commission stands ready to help libraries meet the information needs of people throughout the state.

In discussion with TSLAC accreditation staff, please complete the form below.

Application for waiver

Check any that apply	Section	Type	Expected**	Reported
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.74	Maintenance of effort (MOE)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.81	Minimum locally funded library operating expenditures		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.81	Minimum per capita expenditures		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.81	Professional librarians on staff		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.81	Hours head librarian/director employed per week		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1.81	Hours facility is open per week		
<input type="checkbox"/>	§_____	Other _____		

**from TSLAC Accreditation Staff

Comments, Explanation

Resolution	Date/Initials
Receipt and Acceptance by TSLAC Accreditation Staff, per 13 TAC §1.87	
Referral to LSA Advisory Board	