- 1. Where is the best source of information on the number of children on the spectrum in our parish?
 - a. It's a complex issue because autism doesn't fit neatly into the standard "disability metrics" used by the CDC or Census, which track cognitive, self-care, and independent living disabilities separately. If you want to dive deeper, you can check out the CDC's general autism statistics or explore disability data by state. Additionally, the ACS/Census data can be used to narrow down disability data at the county/parish level, although it's not autism-specific.
- 2. How specific to a set demographic would be ideal? We are wanting to focus on our autistic and dyslexic populations, but we weren't sure if we should be more broad? Thanks!
 - a. Having your primary audience as members of the Autistic community and/or individuals with dyslexia is an eligible choice. You do not have to target a broader audience.
- 3. I am the co-chair of my town's Special education advisory council. Is it ok to list this group as a collaborator or source of information?
 - a. Yes, this is acceptable.
- 4. We have many students with disabilities. More with learning disabilities rather than physical/mobility/ambulatory ones. ADHD, on the spectrum, Sensory issues, neurodivergent, etc. Any suggestions on a proposal approach?
 - a. Focusing your proposal on students with disabilities is acceptable. It would be beneficial to have some preliminary discussions to determine the primary needs of the audience at the moment and base your proposed project on that.
- 5. Can you combine a construction grant to address physical disabilities AND purchase library materials that assist patrons with visual disabilities (purchasing audiobooks and equipment to play audiobooks on).
 - a. Yes, that is acceptable.
- 6. What are the requirements for tracking and reporting staff time for work on the project?
 - a. Whatever method the library finds most effective for tracking staff time spent on the project is acceptable.
- 7. What role does the community partner play? For instance, when approaching a potential partner, what would we be asking them to do?
 - a. The role your community partner plays will vary depending on the organization and the specific project you're proposing. For example, partnering with the local VFW might involve helping the library better reach its primary audience, partnering with a Center for Independent Living could mean they provide resources for your project's primary audience, etc.
- 8. What is defined as urban? If there is a small town of 5,000 people 4 miles away, is that urbanized?

- a. Urbanized area is defined as an area with a population of more than 25,000. In your case, being less than 5 miles away from a town of 5,000 people does not qualify as being close to an urbanized area.
- 9. Would an ADA mama pod for nursing moms qualify for this grant?
 - a. Nursing mothers are not an eligible primary audience because that is not a disability. Your primary audience would need to specifically be people with a disability. If in your community conversation this primary audience indicated that their biggest accessibility obstacle at your library is a need for an ADA compliant nursing location, then it would be eligible.
- 10. Would a standby emergency generator for a Senior Housing with which we partner for digital equity programs qualify? Many residents have mobility and other limitations.
 - a. As long as your primary audience is individuals with disabilities within that community and a generator is what they identify as a priority then that would qualify.
- 11. We are exploring making our basement and library ADA compliant, but we haven't received the quotes from architects yet. Could this grant cover some of the costs of the preliminary feasibility study?
 - a. As long as your primary audience consists of individuals with disabilities who have identified this as their main priority, it is acceptable.
- 12. We have a bookmobile that helps reach people in the county, would anything in relation to this be eligible?
 - a. As long as your primary audience consists of individuals with disabilities who have identified something to do with the bookmobile as their main priority, it would be an acceptable project. (e.g. adding assistive devices for lending through the bookmobile to disabled individuals who do not have the means to travel to the library.)
- 13. Could we possibly have two primary audiences? For example, individuals with mobility impairment could be served with an automatic door opener and individuals on the autism spectrum could be served by a sensory room. Could we attempt to apply for a grant to serve both populations as long as they are within the cost parameters of \$10,000 or \$20,000 and there is a demonstrated need?
 - a. Yes, we have many previous awardees with more than one primary audience. It's often you will find that one accessibility measure will benefit more than one group of people with disabilities. As long as you explain in your application how your project and budget will meet the needs of both/all audience groups, that is acceptable.
- 14. Is a field trip for disabled students an okay expense if tied closely to grant proposal goals?
 - a. As long as your primary audience consists of individuals with disabilities who have identified this as their main priority, it is acceptable.
- 15. We are looking to update our two original 1919 Carnegie entrances to ADA-compliance, as part of a larger project that addresses some water incursion investigation and parking lot redesign. Would the ADA portion be eligible, even if it's part of a larger project?

- a. The ADA portion would be eligible as part of the larger project as long as it is what your primary audience identifies as their accessibility need. You will need to be flexible and open to changing your project if your audience indicates needing a different direction for the grant funds.
- 16. New gov't guidelines have made us aware that our library website is not accessible. Can we use this grant to hire someone to help us make our website more compliant?
 - a. Yes, website accessibility is an eligible project plan and using funds to hire someone to work on that is allowable. As long as your primary audience consists of individuals with disabilities who have identified this as their main priority.
- 17. Where can I find a list of past recipients and their projects?
 - a. We have a few example applications from previously awarded applicants and example budgets available on the Application Resources page.
- 18. Is a project ok if it does not make the library fully ADA accessible, but it does get it closer to that goal?
 - a. This is absolutely okay! Progress forward in accessibility is the goal. We are not expecting the end result to be that your library is perfectly accessible in every single way. Every step forward is an important step for the people with disabilities in your community.