

**From:** [Nikki L. Powell](#)  
**To:** [Debbie L. Bowers](#)  
**Subject:** FW: State Aid Application  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:12:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [20251112\\_170416.pdf](#)

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**Nikki Powell**

Human Resources Director  
Escambia County Board of County Commissioners  
Office: (850) 595-3279  
Cell: (850) 417-2101  
221 Palafox Place, Suite 200  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
[nlpowell@myescambia.com](mailto:nlpowell@myescambia.com)

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**From:** Christal L. Bell-Rivera <cbrivera@mywfpl.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 7:32 AM  
**To:** Nikki L. Powell <nlpowell@myescambia.com>; Christopher R. Shaffer <crshaffer@myescambia.com>  
**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <acskidmore@myescambia.com>; Wesley J Moreno <WJMORENO@myescambia.com>; Wesley M. Hall <wmhall@myescambia.com>; Stephan D. Hall <sdhall@myescambia.com>  
**Subject:** RE: State Aid Application

Nikki,

Good morning.

The County did not receive notification directly. It was addressed to the BOG, and I was only copied on the correspondence (letter attached).

Thank you,

Christal

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**From:** Nikki L. Powell <[nlpowell@myescambia.com](mailto:nlpowell@myescambia.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 6:36 AM  
**To:** Christal L. Bell-Rivera <[cbrivera@mywfpl.com](mailto:cbrivera@mywfpl.com)>; Christopher R. Shaffer <[crshaffer@myescambia.com](mailto:crshaffer@myescambia.com)>  
**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <[acskidmore@myescambia.com](mailto:acskidmore@myescambia.com)>; Wesley J Moreno <[WJMORENO@myescambia.com](mailto:WJMORENO@myescambia.com)>; Wesley M. Hall <[wmhall@myescambia.com](mailto:wmhall@myescambia.com)>; Stephan D. Hall <[sdhall@myescambia.com](mailto:sdhall@myescambia.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: State Aid Application

Christal,

Thank you for sharing. Please let me know if you need anything from me for the process. I have added Stephan to the e-mail. Did the County also receive a copy of the letter or just the BOG? Who signs off on the grant application?

Thanks,

**Nikki Powell**

Human Resources Director

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

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**From:** Christal L. Bell-Rivera <[cbrivera@mywfpl.com](mailto:cbrivera@mywfpl.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025 5:54 PM

**To:** Christopher R. Shaffer <[crshaffer@myescambia.com](mailto:crshaffer@myescambia.com)>

**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <[acskidmore@myescambia.com](mailto:acskidmore@myescambia.com)>; Wesley J Moreno <[WJMORENO@myescambia.com](mailto:WJMORENO@myescambia.com)>; Wesley M. Hall <[wmhall@myescambia.com](mailto:wmhall@myescambia.com)>; Nikki L. Powell <[nlpowell@myescambia.com](mailto:nlpowell@myescambia.com)>

**Subject:** State Aid Application

Chris,

I received the attached letter in the mail and responded with the information outlined below. Thomas Peña, Grant Programs Supervisor with the Division of Library and Information Services, responded, indicating that we were still eligible to apply for the grant. I reached out and spoke with him by phone for further clarification.

Mr. Peña confirmed that, as long as I am serving as Interim Director while the County searches for a new library director, we remain eligible to apply for the grant.

Additionally, if selected for the permanent Director position, we would qualify for the following year's grant cycle, provided I obtain my MLS as expected in May 2026, based on my having more than two years of public library experience in an administrative role.

Mr. Peña's contact information is (850) 245-6620 and [Thomas.Pena@dos.fl.gov](mailto:Thomas.Pena@dos.fl.gov), if you would like to discuss this further with him.

If the County wishes to proceed with submitting our application, I must have the attached certification of hours & 26-ST-92 submitted with the application to the state

by December 1, 2025. Monday, November 17, 2025, is the last BCC meeting before December 1, 2025.

I apologize for the short turnaround, as I just received this in the mail on Monday afternoon and spoke with Mr. Peña today.

Best Regards,

**Christal Bell-Rivera**

Interim Director, West Florida Public Libraries  
239 N. Spring St.  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
(850) 436-5033 | mywfpl.com



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**From:** Christopher R. Shaffer <[crshaffer@myescambia.com](mailto:crshaffer@myescambia.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 9:34 AM  
**To:** Christal L. Bell-Rivera <[cbrivera@mywfpl.com](mailto:cbrivera@mywfpl.com)>  
**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <[acskidmore@myescambia.com](mailto:acskidmore@myescambia.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: State Aid Application

Christal,

After review, Legal is declining to sign off on the State Aid application because the County does not meet the eligibility requirements for submission. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Christopher R. Shaffer

Assistant County Attorney

221 Palafox Place, Ste. 430

Pensacola, FL 32502

(850) 595-4970

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**From:** Christal L. Bell-Rivera <[cbrivera@mywfpl.com](mailto:cbrivera@mywfpl.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2025 2:54 PM  
**To:** Christopher R. Shaffer <[crshaffer@myescambia.com](mailto:crshaffer@myescambia.com)>  
**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <[acskidmore@myescambia.com](mailto:acskidmore@myescambia.com)>  
**Subject:** State Aid Application

Chris,

Attached is the new State Aid application for BOCC signature. If the County determines that we meet the necessary guidelines to proceed with submission before the December 1, 2025 deadline, please provide Legal signoff (on both documents) so that I may place the item on the BCC agenda.

Please also note that Director Todd J. Humble's resignation is effective November 16, 2025.

Thank you,

**Christal Bell-Rivera**  
Interim Director, West Florida Public Libraries  
239 N. Spring St.  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
(850) 436-5033 | [mywfpl.com](http://mywfpl.com)



**From:** [Nikki L. Powell](#)  
**To:** [Debbie L. Bowers](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WFPL Bylaws  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:18:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [resolution pdf.pdf](#)  
[WFPL Bylaws Approved 3-21-24 CRS Legal Sign-Off \(3\) \(2\).pdf](#)

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**Nikki Powell**

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**From:** Christopher R. Shaffer <crshaffer@myescambia.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:58 AM  
**To:** Nikki L. Powell <nlpowell@myescambia.com>  
**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore <acskidmore@myescambia.com>; Alison A. Rogers <aarogers@myescambia.com>  
**Subject:** Re: WFPL Bylaws

Nikki,

The BOG was created by Resolution R2013-17 (see attached), which in Section 3(B) provides that the BOG “shall recommend to the County Administrator or designee a Library Director.” The Library Director is an employee of Escambia County who reports to the County Administrator. The BOG’s role is advisory.

While the County Administrator should ordinarily consider the BOG’s recommendation, there is no legal requirement that he appoint only from the BOG’s recommendation, and an interim or permanent Director could be selected without BOG recommendation/approval.

Christopher R. Shaffer  
Assistant County Attorney  
221 Palafox Place, Ste. 430  
Pensacola, FL 32502

(850) 595-4970

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**From:** Nikki L. Powell

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:24 PM

**To:** Christopher R. Shaffer

**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore

**Subject:** FW: WFPL Bylaws

Hey Chris,

There are some questions that came from the most recent BOG meeting regarding the hiring of the library Director. This document says the BOG makes a recommendation to the CA, not that the BOG does the hiring. Mr. Hall provided minutes from the meeting (paper documents I can provide tomorrow) stating BOG will do the hiring, and the County doesn't get a vote.

For my information, is the BOG required by statute, or was this implemented by the board?

Will you review and advise?

**Nikki Powell**

Human Resources Director

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

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**From:** Christopher R. Shaffer

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:02 AM

**To:** Nikki L. Powell

**Cc:** Andrew C. Skidmore

**Subject:** WFPL Bylaws

Nikki,

The description/qualifications for the Library Director role are defined in the bylaws. I am still trying to track down the most recent evaluation of Director Humble.

Christopher R. Shaffer

Assistant County Attorney

221 Palafox Place, Ste. 430

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(850) 595-4970