



AASLH
American Association
for State and Local History

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Field Services Alliance Explained

The Field Services Alliance (FSA) is an organization of historical society and museum outreach professionals employed by institutions that have and promote an ongoing program to increase the capabilities of local partner/grassroots organizations through grants assistance, professionally developed training, and consultation with technical information. Therefore, FSA is a forum for field services professionals to share information, experiences, and problems, and provide support, collegiality, and an opportunity for scholarship.

FSA Clientele

The FSA recognizes that the majority of local partner/grassroots organizations are historical societies and history museums, and shares with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) a commitment to assist such organizations through the work of field services professionals. However, FSA also recognizes similar needs in and provides assistance to many other cultural organizations such as museums of art, science, children, and natural history, as well as planetariums, zoos, archives, libraries, and many others.

FSA Membership

FSA members are paid staff of institutions that have and promote an ongoing program to increase the capabilities of local partner/grassroots organizations through grants assistance, professionally developed training, and consultation. Anyone not meeting this definition, but interested in the work of field services, may be affiliated with FSA as an “Interested Colleague.” There are no annual dues to FSA.

Programs of FSA

FSA programs include a website (<http://www.aaslh.org/FSA/>), a listserv called FS-LIST, an annual survey to gauge the status of field services nationally, an annual meeting preceding the AASLH annual meeting, a winter working meeting, collaboration with AASLH on sessions at its annual conference, special programs and projects, and sessions at meetings of other museum associations.

Structure of FSA

FSA is led by a chair, vice chair, and secretary, each elected for two years. The chair appoints other positions as needed, such as the electronic communications coordinator. FSA establishes committees as necessary to accomplish its vision.

Vision

The vision of FSA through 2010 includes the creation of a field service office in every state of the United States, advocating for the creation of field services in other countries with significant systems of local cultural institutions, developing materials to aid the creation of the above, strengthening collaboration with AASLH, and sharing access to resources that help institutions meet commonly accepted standards and practices.