

How LSTA Funding from IMLS Benefits Colorado Libraries



COLORADO
Department of Education

LSTA IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR MORE THAN 30 LIBRARY SERVICES/PROGRAMS IN COLORADO

Colorado received **\$3.0 million** in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) during FY2022-2023. This is roughly 62% of the State Library's operational budget with State funds comprising the remaining 38%.

LSTA funding supports most State Library services for Colorado libraries including: the Colorado Talking Book Library; the Library Research Service; early learning; professional development for school library staff; library leadership and trustee support; institutional libraries; digital collection and technology solutions; resource kits; and state publications.

Besides funding these ongoing projects that enhance library services statewide, LSTA has been used to support the creation of many familiar regional programs such as Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, Plains to Peaks Collective, SWIFT Interlibrary Loan, Check Out Colorado State Parks, and Growing Readers Together.

LSTA FUNDING SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING STATE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

LITERACY FOR ALL AGES

- Early Learning and Literacy
- Growing Readers Together
- Colorado Statewide Summer Library Program
- Literacy and Youth Services
- Adult Library Services
- Check Out Colorado State Parks program

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- Highly Effective School Library Program
- School Libraries Communication Toolkit
- School library standards, consulting, research

WHAT IS IMLS AND LSTA*?

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) distributes Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding through the Grants to States program. It is the largest source of federal funding for America's public libraries.

Using a population-based formula, more than \$168 million was distributed to 59 State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) located in: Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia; The Territories; and The Freely Associated States.

To strengthen the impact of the federal investment in the Grants to States program, IMLS and SLAAs have partnered to shift the way in which Grants to States program information is gathered and shared, improve program evaluation and reporting, and highlight evidence-based best practices. Results of this work are incorporated in the publicly accessible annual reporting tool known as the State Program Report (SPR).

One of the program's statutory priorities is to address underserved communities and persons having difficulty using a library. In Colorado 32% of grant funds supported library services for those unable to read standard print as well as those residing in state run institutions.

*IMLS Grants to States Program





LIBRARY LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Libraries Learn: Professional development and consulting for library staff
- CSL in Session: web-based learning programs
- Online and in-person learning
- Public library standards
- Facilitations of strategic planning, Colorado Library Law, policy development and implementation
- Consulting and professional development for public library boards, directors, middle managers
- New director's orientation and development

COLORADO TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

- Free audio, braille, and large print books for those unable to read standard print
- Services to 5,000 active individual patrons and 600 organizations
- More than 736,000 audio book titles were circulated to patrons
- Books on Demand, aka duplication on demand, for audio books means no waiting for any title and no due dates
- Audio and braille books for download through BARD 24/7

STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

- Free permanent public access to state government documents
- Collection of over 170,000 print and/or digital documents
- Digital repository and blog supporting more than 1.4 million patron interactions annually

LIBRARY RESEARCH SERVICE

- LRS.org: Data collection, analysis, and guidance in understanding data use in libraries
- DART: free software for libraries to track and analyze reference statistics
- Assist Colorado libraries in developing and conducting research and related projects

RESOURCE SHARING & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Colorado Virtual Library: access to resources and news for library staff
- Resource Sharing: statewide interlibrary loan, circulating book club and resource kits
- Colorado Historic Newspapers: more than 8.5 million pages of free online historic newspapers from Colorado and Wyoming
- Plains to Peaks Collective: National exposure for Colorado and Wyoming historical artifacts
- Website Creation & Hosting: hosted websites for libraries, associations, and museums
- Mail List Hosting: mail list management for special topics, interest groups, and associations
- Library Jobline: free employment notification service connecting libraries and job seekers

LIBRARIES IN STATE INSTITUTIONS

- Family literacy programs in state institutions to support parent-child relationships
- Provide books, magazines, and technology to support education, literacy, and re-entry
- Technical assistance and professional development to managers and 52 staff at 38 institutions/ facilities
- Establish up-to-date institutional library standards and best practices, evaluate library services, and provide relevant, easily accessible reports and information to institutions staff and leaders

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- State Library website: www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org
- Colorado's LSTA five year plan: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/lsta>
- IMLS Grants to States Program: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/grant-programs/grants-states>