

How LSTA Funding from IMLS Benefits Colorado Libraries



COLORADO
Department of Education

LSTA IS THE MAIN FUNDING SOURCE FOR MORE THAN 30 DIFFERENT LIBRARY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN COLORADO

Colorado receives \$3.2 million in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This is roughly 61% of the State Library's operational total. State funds make up the other 39%.

LSTA funding supports most State Library services for Colorado libraries including: the Colorado Talking Book Library; the Library Research Service; early learning programs; professional development programs for school library staff; library leadership and trustee support; institutional libraries; digital collection and technology solutions; 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, Growing Readers Together, and other local projects to improve literacy, learning, collections, adult and teen services.

LSTA FUNDING SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING STATE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR LIBRARIES

- [Colorado Statewide Summer Learning Program](#)
- [Colorado Virtual Events Calendar](#)
- [Check Out Colorado State Parks program](#)
- [Growing Readers Together](#) – early literacy for informal caregivers via libraries
- [Adult Library Programming and Events](#)

PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- [Highly Effective School Library Program](#)
- Professional development and resources for school library staff
- 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 support for library services in the U.S.

Using a population-based formula, more than \$180 million is distributed to State Library Administrative Agencies located in: Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia; The Territories; and The Freely Associated States. In 2021, an additional \$178 million in ARPA funding was distributed to the states.

For more than 50 years LSTA funding and its predecessor programs under the federal Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101) have supported the delivery and improvement of library services in the U.S.

While the law has undergone numerous reauthorizations over time, the basic function of the program, which merges federal priorities with state-defined needs, continues to this day.

Approximately 40% of Colorado grants to states funds in recent years have supported library services for the blind and physically handicapped and state institutional libraries. The program funds are also used to meet the needs of the current and future library workforce.

*[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
- Facilitation of strategic planning, financial strategies, 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 people who cannot read standard print
- Services to 6,000 active individual patrons and 600 organizations
- 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 160,000 documents, circulating print and digital items
- Digital repository and blog supporting more than 550,000 patron interactions annually
- Stewards the Professional Collection for the library community's continuing education

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

DIGITAL COLLECTION & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Colorado Historic Newspapers: more than 7.5 million pages of free online historic newspapers from Colorado and Wyoming
- Colorado Virtual Library: access to resources for library staff and the public
- Resource Sharing: statewide interlibrary loan, circulating book club and resource kits
- Digital collection hosting and support
- Plains to Peaks Collective: DPLA inclusion for Colorado and Wyoming artifacts
- Website Creation & Hosting
- Mail List Hosting
- Library Jobline: free 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>