



How LSTA Funding from IMLS Benefits Colorado Libraries

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 \$180 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 34% of grant funds supported library services for those unable to read standard print as well as those residing in state run institutions.

LSTA is the Primary Source of Funding For More Than 30 Library Services and Programs in Colorado

Colorado State Library received \$3.2 million in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) during FY2023-2024. This is roughly 60% of the State Library's operational budget with State funds comprising the remaining 40%.

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](#)
- [Literacy and Youth Services](#)
- [Colorado Statewide Summer Learning Program](#)
- [Lifelong Literacy](#)
- [Spanish for Libraries](#)
- [Health Literacy](#)
- [Adult Library Services](#)



School Libraries:

- [Highly Effective School Library Program \(HESTL\)](#)
- [School Libraries Communication Toolkit](#)
- [School Library Standards, Consulting, Research](#)



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Libraries Learn: Professional development and consulting for library staff
- CSL in Session: web-based learning programs
- 279 online and in-person learning sessions reaching 4,881 participants
- Updated Colorado 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
- Colorado Public Library Board & Trustee Handbook
- 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 781,000 audio, braille, large print and descriptive video titles circulated to patrons
- Provided 17,206 consultations with library patrons

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 1 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
- Public Library Annual Report
- [PRISM project](#): Study determining the outcomes of library services in prison
- 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 Collection](#): more than 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](#)

[Colorado's LSTA Five-Year Plan](#)

[IMLS Grants to States Program](#)

