

Library Services and Technology Act in Minnesota

The Institute of Museum and Library Services provides Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to Minnesota through the Grants to States Program. The annual allocation is based on the state's population; Minnesota's annual allotment is typically \$2.6 to \$2.7 million. Funds are administered by State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Overview

LSTA funds are used to support the goals articulated in [Minnesota's LSTA 2013-2017 Five Year Plan](#). The plan acknowledges that Minnesota's libraries are key community partners in addressing statewide and local needs such as disparities in employment, inequitable access to information and gaps in access to innovative educational programs and services. Current plan goals are:

1. To facilitate increased access to resources in all types of eligible libraries, especially through collaborative public and private partnerships, for the purposes of expanding programs and services supporting Minnesotans' needs for education, lifelong learning, continuing education, workforce development, and 21st century and digital literacy skills.
2. Through partnerships and statewide initiatives and networks, facilitate access, preservation, and sharing of resources in all types of eligible libraries locally, regionally, statewide, nationally, and internationally to support research, education, and innovation.

Representative Projects

Statewide initiatives support high value activities that strengthen Minnesota's libraries. Annual competitive grant rounds give libraries and schools opportunities to try innovative projects that creatively address community needs.

Statewide Impact

- 10,000 Minnesotans with visual or physical disabilities that prevent their use of standard print materials benefit from services offered by the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library.
- All Minnesotans have access to more than 3,000 high-quality books through Ebooks Minnesota. The online ebook collection features content from Minnesota's independent publishers such as Milkweed Press, Lerner Publishing, and University of Minnesota Press.
- More than 350 aspiring filmmakers from across the state retold Newbery Award-winning books in 100+ 90-second movies. A screening of the best local and national entries drew a crowd of 250+.
- Early STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) literacy training was presented to 170+ public library and early childhood professionals, in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Local Impact

- Partnerships between libraries and literacy organizations in 11 communities have improved adult digital literacy and workforce skills using the Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. (Districts 1, 4, 6, 7 & 8)
- More than 100 Austin 3rd & 4th grade science fair participants paired with mentors, increasing science literacy and student interest in STEM careers. (District 1)
- At-risk early learners in Moorhead and St. Cloud have increased literacy opportunities at school, home, and in the library through partnerships between libraries, schools, and early childhood organizations. (Districts 7 & 8)
- New tools, resources, and expanded hours in rural and urban school media centers improved at-risk students' digital and media literacy skills. (Districts 3, 5, 6 & 8)
- Students and families without Internet access at home can borrow mobile hotspots, iPads, and Chromebooks from both public and school libraries. (Districts 1 & 4)
- Working with community partners, public libraries and school media centers are creating programs and providing resources that strengthen families at risk. (Districts 3, 4 & 5)

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