



## **LSTA Funds in Michigan Serving All Michigan Residents**

**Federal FY 2015 (10/1/2014 – 9/30/2016)**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funds through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) to the states. In Michigan, the Library of Michigan receives the funds to improve library services to state residents. The Library of Michigan funds projects based on how well they match the goals of the LSTA legislation and the goals of Michigan's IMLS approved five-year plan. The LSTA legislation and the current Five-Year Plan are at [www.michigan.gov/lsta](http://www.michigan.gov/lsta).

### **How are LSTA funds used?**

Currently, Michigan uses LSTA funds primarily for statewide programs that benefit school, public, academic and special libraries users and Michigan residents directly. The federal FY 2015 allotment was \$4,350,678. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at [www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org), anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

### **Michigan eLibrary (MeL)**

- **Databases** – Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, and other full-text materials. Content ranges from PreK-12 levels to professional and research levels in science, medicine, education, technology, humanities, arts, social sciences, law and genealogy. Spanish language materials are available for PreK-12 students. State funds also support significant business and early literacy resources.
- **MeLCat** – The statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Users can search the catalog from [www.MeL.org/melcat](http://www.MeL.org/melcat) or directly from their participating local library catalog. Michigan residents are using MeLCat to easily identify and request convenient, quick and free delivery of materials from other participating Michigan libraries to their own library for pick up.
- **Michigana** – Digitized local historical resources from Michigan libraries, including family papers, photographs, diaries, obituaries, newspapers, maps, archives and other local documents and commercial history resources. These materials illustrate Michigan's place in American history especially in topics such as the Civil War and the automotive, shipping and lumbering industries.

- **eBooks** – A collection of thousands of non-fiction and reference electronic books for academics and professionals. Topics include science, computers, business, education and humanities among others.
- **Gateways** – A balanced collection of quality subscription eResources and librarian selected Internet sites that are Michigan-related or especially useful to Michigan residents. MeL's Business Gateway, which is newly redesigned, supports economic development and small businesses. Gateways also support children, teens and teachers and point to job, health, legal, literacy and government information.
- **Tests, Tutorials & Workforce Development** – A comprehensive, interactive site with occupational, licensing and academic practice tests and tutorials for K-16 and job seekers, from the GED to the GRE.

### **Other Major Statewide Programs**

- **Early Literacy** – High-quality, resource-filled summer reading manuals from the Collaborative Summer Library Program are provided to public libraries, saving the libraries both staff time and money. Support for the Michigan Reads! statewide early literacy program also helped provide quality program kit to approximately 600,000 students and young children, with a kit based on Laurie Keller's *Do Unto Otters*.
- **Ploud** – Michigan participates in this nation-wide collaborative to provide high quality, easy to use web sites for public libraries, giving their communities online access to statewide resources. At the end of state FY 2016 the project served 97 small and rural communities.
- **E-rate training and support** – Michigan libraries have training and assistance for E-rate, the federal program that provides for reduced cost Internet and telecommunications connectivity.
- **Continuing Education for Librarians** – LSTA funds sponsored workshops and training and online continuing education resources for librarians and trustees throughout the state, giving library staff the opportunity to learn new techniques and methods to reach underserved residents.

### **How does Michigan receive LSTA funds?**

Congress funds the Library Services & Technology Act annually through an appropriation to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS then allocates the funds through a formula with a base amount per state plus a per capita amount. To receive LSTA funds, the State of Michigan must both match the federal funds and maintain a level of effort through state or private funds.

Matching funds may be state or private and must equal approximately 50% of the federal allotment. States must meet the matching requirement to receive the allotment. Maintenance of effort is determined by a three-year average of state funds. These funds must be spent on libraries in a way that supports the purpose of the LSTA Act. In Michigan, that funding is primarily state aid to public libraries. If the average falls, the allotment amount falls by the same percentage.

## **What is the impact on library users in Michigan?**

LSTA funding has a profound impact on improving outcomes in Michigan for students, professionals and lifelong learners as the comments the Library of Michigan receives attest to.

“I wanted to thank you for your webinar, “Early Literacy Tips For Storytimes - Preschoolers” I am a new Library Board Member...Your webinar was well produced, entertaining and very informative. Your rich content and expert presentation skills allowed me insights I would otherwise not have enjoyed. I will be sharing it with others.”

“I greatly appreciate how MeL allows library patrons such as myself to gain access to other collections across the state. MeL allows me to access, through my local library ... older books (economics, fiction, etc.) which would be otherwise unavailable. What a great way for libraries to maximize the use of their collections!”

“Friends - I am now working on my doctorate at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, while living in ... Without MeLCat, this would not be possible. How can I begin to express my appreciation for the availability of resources and wisdom that would otherwise be unattainable?”