



2022 Improving Access to Information Grants

The Library of Michigan (LM) is pleased to announce twelve Improving Access to Information grants for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. As the Michigan library community has continued to serve their communities through a turbulent year, 20 academic and public libraries applied for the Improving Access to Information grants to better provide new services and content to their users. LM has approved twelve of those proposals for a total of \$205,000.

The Improving Access to Information grant program is intended to help Michigan's public and academic libraries provide improved access to collections in one of three areas; literacy, local history, or special collections; and services to community users with limited online access, e.g., improving equity through digital inclusion. Five grants were awarded for literacy related programs, one grant was awarded for special collections digitization, and six grants were awarded for digital inclusion or digital literacy programs. The grants are described below.

Alpena County Library – “Updating Computing Services” - \$22,565

This project will update the adult computing lab and develop a new youth services lab to provide increased access to the Internet to the community, to provide digital access to users with disabilities, and to allow digital literacy instruction programming.

Benton Harbor Public Library – “Beyond the Walls” - \$20,000

This project will develop a mobile library collection to provide library services at parks, laundromats, the senior center, and other community spaces. The mobile library project will bring collection access, tech help, programming to community members without reliable transportation.

Clinton-Macomb Public Library – “Adaptive Technology Lending Program” - \$11,000

This project will provide an array of adaptive technology for check out to organizations serving individuals with visual, physical, or reading disabilities and have an educational literacy program to improve the literacy skills of users with disabilities.

Dearborn Heights City Libraries – “Improving Access to Library Resources to the Arabic-speaking Community” - \$25,000

This project will focus on creating a more inclusive and accessible library for Arabic-speaking community members through translating library signage and content into Arabic, improving Arabi and bilingual language materials, and providing ESL and citizenship resources and workshops.

Dearborn Public Library – “Book & Cook” - \$18,349

This two-fold project will target economically-disadvantaged patrons, enabling them to improve their health through better diet and nutrition through participatory cooking demonstrations. Food and food preparation will also help participants improve their language skills and literacy growth through the common experiences of cooking and eating.

Houghton Lake Public Library – “Digital Book Breakthrough” - \$9,039

This project will focus on intensive assistance for students who are not reading at grade level. The library will collaborate with Houghton Lake Community Schools to identify struggling readers in the 3rd grade and create and implement a program to increase their literacy skills and foster a more positive attitude towards reading.

Jackson District Library – “Adult Literacy – Laptop and Hotspot Checkout” - \$11,340

This project is an enhancement of the JDL Adult Literacy program to provide internet access support. By combining traditional literacy tutoring support with digital skill trainings and programs, learners in the program will be able to address both the literacy and information facets of their educational goals.

Muskegon Area District Library – “iPad Kits” - \$25,000

This project will develop circulating kits to increase internet access. The iPad kits will bring technology, internet connectivity, and equity to communities with little to no affordable broadband options and households with limited device access.

Petoskey District Library – “Growing Readers Together” - \$24,960

This project works to increase literacy and reading confidence in K-3 students through one-on-one tutoring, monthly Family Literacy Nights, and at home materials for children, parents, and caregivers.

Public Libraries of Saginaw – “Expanding Outdoor Internet Access” - \$5,000

This project will extend public internet access at all branches, which will be available at any time on the library grounds. For each of the communities included, it will allow community members with limited digital access to have high quality internet access every day.

Romulus Public Library – “Laptop & Chromebook Checkout” - \$21,281

This project will allow greater access to the internet and programs to community members through circulating laptops, increased Wi-Fi access and increased outdoor programming capabilities. Community members will have safer and more effective digital access.

Wayne State University Libraries Special Collections – “Mapping Historic Michigan” - \$11,535

This project will digitize and preserve a collection of rare, early Michigan maps dating from 1710 to 1847. WSU scholars of geography and Indigenous Michigan studies will create digital overlays for the digitized maps to reflect the Indigenous populations and activities of the relevant time periods represented in the maps.

If you would like more information about the Library of Michigan grant programs, please go to www.michigan.gov/lsta and see the grant programs sections for program descriptions and documentation.

The Library of Michigan grant programs are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.