Michigan LSTA Fact Sheet

LSTA and Other Federal Funds in Michigan
Serving All Michigan Residents

State Fiscal Year 2020/Federal Fiscal Year 2019
(10/1/2018 – 9/30/2020)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funds through the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018, including the Library Services & Technology subchapter (LSTA) to the states. In Michigan, the Library of Michigan receives the funds to improve library services to state residents. LM funds projects based on 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 https://www.michigan.gov/lsta. LM also received funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in 2020.

How are LSTA & CARES Act funds used?

In accordance with the legislative priorities of the CARES Act, LM distributed most of the $902,397 CARES Act funds to libraries through grants for personal protective equipment and other safety supplies and for digital inclusions supplies such as hot spots, laptops, etc. to provide greater access to the Internet for their communities. LM also funded the creation of online learning modules for library staff to allow required training to continue during the pandemic restrictions.

As in previous years, LM uses LSTA funds primarily for statewide resources programs that benefit school, public, academic and special libraries users and Michigan residents directly. The federal FY 2019 allotment was $4,526,980. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at https://www.mel.org, anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

Databases – The MeL databases contain hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, and other full-text materials.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 and translation is available in magazine and newspaper databases to support learners who are learning or speak other languages. State funds also support early literacy resources.

MeLCat – The statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Users can search the catalog from 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.

eBooks – A collection of thousands of non-fiction and reference electronic books for K-12 students and teachers, college-level academics, and professionals. Topics include science, computers, business, education, and humanities among others.

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.

Training and Support - A robust collection of materials designed to support easier independent use of MeL eResources in two ways. First, engagement specialists connect with Library Staff and Educators for training sessions. Second, content is created to support self-directed learning, practical applications, and promotion of eResources.

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 Ready to Read early literacy program also helped provide quality early literacy programming and training to children's librarians as they work with families in their communities.

Ploud & E–Rate Support – Michigan participates in Ploud, a 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 2020, the project served over 123 small and rural communities. The Library of Michigan also provides consulting support for public libraries to participate in the federal E-Rate program.

Continuing Education for Librarians – LSTA funds sponsored Library of Michigan and partner organization conferences, workshops, webinars and online continuing education resources for librarians and trustees throughout the state, as well as continuing education stipends, giving library staff the opportunity to learn new techniques and methods to reach underserved residents.

Grants – LSTA funds three grant programs. The Public Library Services grants are small summer programming grants for public libraries in the areas of technology, children & teen programs, and literacy. The Improving Access to Information grants are one-year grants for public and academic libraries to increase capacity to provide access to library collections and information. The Collaborative Library Services grants are one to three-year grants for collaborative community projects for public, academic and school libraries. However, due to pandemic related closures, ongoing Collaborative grants were funded, but new applications were not accepted.

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 three-year average of state aid to public libraries falls, the LSTA allotment amount falls by the same percentage.

What is the impact on community members in Michigan?

LSTA and CARES ACT 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.

CARES Act Grants

"We had a young single mother whose child had cancer and was having to make frequent trips downstate for treatment. The mom struggled with keeping her child's mind off some of what she was experiencing, so decided that allowing her child to work on schoolwork when she felt up to it would be a good way to accomplish that. The problem was that wherever they were staying charged for Wi-Fi access and money was tight. When I suggested to her that she take one of our hotspots out whenever they needed to be gone so that her daughter could access her online schoolwork, she cried."

"To whom it may concern,
The T-Mobile hotspot has saved me from failing nursing school. When covid19 has shut every restaurant, coffee shop, and library down those offers free WIFI. This is the only way that I can take my exams and listen to lectures. A normal week, for example, is a six-hour lecture on Wednesday and 10-15 videos to watch before lab the next day and writing assignment due every week. I have to take timed exams online at a set time frame and can't afford for my internet connection to fail me literally and physically. I have the lowest broadband internet because it's all I can afford with having to put two kids in daycare due to school closures. Nursing schooling extremely challenging to get into and equally challenging to remote learn from. I have to plan zoom meeting for study groups. That would not be possible without having reliable internet source such as the T-mobile hotspot. Please help a mother, college student, future nurse, and healthcare work/ everyday hero by keeping this an option for me to use. Covid has taken enough from us don't let take an education away also."

MeL

"MeL is not just MeLCat; it's databases, teacher resources, library training resources, career resources, and all those other things. I appreciate that MeL is finding a way to teach people "how" to use all of MeL and to recognize its usefulness to ALL library types and sizes."

Continuing Education for Librarians

"Thank you for this information. It was a wakeup call for me two weeks ago when I first heard about re-opening in stages and how things are going to change, and it took a while for me to process. However, this information is just what I need. It gives me a direction to start moving in. I am so glad that I joined this Cohort. I believe that I would have had a much more difficult time during this pandemic if I had not."