



# Michigan LSTA Fact Sheet

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## LSTA Funds in Michigan Serving All Michigan Residents

State Fiscal Year 2019/Federal Fiscal Year 2018  
(10/1/2017 – 9/30/2019)

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 <https://www.michigan.gov/lsta>.

### How are LSTA funds used?

Currently, Michigan uses LSTA funds primarily for statewide resources programs that benefit school, public, academic and special libraries users and Michigan residents directly. The federal FY 2018 allotment was \$4,461,273. 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hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, and other full-text materials.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](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.

**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 2019, the project served over 100 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. Finally, the Collaborative Library Services grants are one to three-year grants for collaborative community projects for public, academic and school libraries that focus on IMLS priorities.

### 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 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.

#### MeLCat

“A patron in our library yesterday, a Michigan resident, commented that she and her husband are considering moving to a different home, but will only move to another community if its library participates in MeLCat. Of course, these days most do, but she is keen to make sure of it before buying any house.”

## MeL

"I am re-entering the workforce and the LearningExpress Library resume builder enabled me to easily create a professional looking resume. The questions it asked and suggestions it offered gave me confidence that I was including all of the information that today's employers are looking for in a format that would put my skills and experience in their best light. I haven't had to create a resume in over ten years and LEL eliminated the stress from this portion of the job seeking process. Furthermore, I am visually impaired, and I can use this program successfully with my Windows screen enlargement program."

"I can't tell the difference between real news and fake news and MeL is real."

"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."

"I love the fact that I can link resources from MeL to my school website. I teach 4th grade and we teach a lot of informational reading and research. Teaching the students what credible sites are and what credible information is is very important. Introducing this site will be wonderful. I will specifically link Britannica School Elementary and the eBook K-8 collection."

## Online Training

"Thanks to the Library of Michigan for our United for Libraries membership and access to training like today's "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: What Library Trustees Need to Know." We've just a year into equity training and I really appreciated the reinforcement of the other skills I'm practicing. Thank you for making today's training available to Michigan libraries."

