The impact of LSTA funds in Iowa

The State Library of Iowa relies on Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to deliver statewide library development initiatives and services to Iowa libraries and citizens. This critical funding is tied to matching dollars from the Iowa Legislature.

Iowa received $2,028,735 for Federal Fiscal Year 2021, which was spent over a grant period from Oct. 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2023.

Flip this page over to find out more about State Library programs supported by LSTA funding.

IOWANS VALUE LIBRARIES

Each day, library doors across Iowa open, welcoming all kinds of people in to borrow a book, use the free Wi-Fi, or attend a program. Even at home, the library is there, offering ebooks and audiobooks for checkout, and online resources to support jobseekers, veterans, students, and more.

Iowa public libraries continue to be an asset to the communities they serve. Take a look at some data sourced from the FY22 Iowa Public Library Statistics:

- Library visits: 9,883,484
- Registered library users: 1,842,174
- Physical items circulated: 16,088,208
- Digital items circulated: 3,765,415
- Programs offered: 86,982
- Programs attended: 1,479,675
- Wi-Fi sessions: 3,083,902

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In Iowa, LSTA supported programs:

- Set minimum standards for public libraries and recognize high quality libraries through the Standards and Accreditation program.
- Train and support skilled public librarians and effective library boards by offering ongoing Continuing Education opportunities and the State Library Endorsement program for library directors, staff, and youth services librarians. State Library staff provide consulting services to librarians and boards on best practices in librarianship.
- Facilitate the sharing of materials via the statewide delivery service for public libraries IA Shares and interlibrary loan system known as SILO.
- Provide online resources and tools for library management, digital lending, job and veteran support, and more; including WhoFi, a suite of tools to assist library operations; support for the statewide digital library consortium Bridges; and Brainfuse HelpNow for library patrons.
- Help Iowans understand the law through a plain language legal resource website called the People’s Law Library of Iowa.
- Support literacy and promote STEM concepts in libraries with the statewide Summer Library Program, the All Iowa Reads program, and STEM To Go and Storytime Kits available for checkout to libraries.
- Allow libraries to reach the communities they serve by providing no cost website hosting and support through the PLOW program.
- Collect and provide data on Iowa’s population, demographics, libraries, and more through the State Data Center and Iowa Library Statistics programs.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STATE LIBRARY & THESE PROGRAMS AT WWW.STATELIBRARYOFIOWA.GOV