



Federal Funding for Libraries in Illinois: IMLS/LSTA

Administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the only federal program that exclusively covers services and funding for libraries, provided \$5.8 million for Illinois Libraries in FY2023 under the Grants to States Program. **Please support LSTA funding in the FY2024 federal budget with a level of at least \$232 million.**

In FY2023 this funding impacted Illinois libraries through:

Efficiently Sharing Resources: 10.7 million items were transferred among more than 1,700 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Illinois. LSTA-supported resource sharing allowed for an average of 3,809 delivery stops to be made during each week of the fiscal year through ground delivery services provided by the regional library systems. No one library can own everything; and sharing resources between libraries benefits library users across the entire state.

Additionally, through subscriptions for WorldCat Discovery/FirstSearch services Illinois libraries conducted 1,260,073 citation searches between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 to serve their library patrons and support their library operations. Academic and college libraries constituted (17.99%) 226,765 of searches; public libraries (62.14%) 783,042; K-12 school libraries (18.08%) 227,865 and special libraries such as medical, law, corporate, and government (1.7%) 22,401. Use of these services allows libraries to identify and access the resources that are required to meet the expectations of their patrons.

Project Next Generation Grants: This initiative is designed to educate at-risk students and bridge the digital divide. Public libraries work closely with their school districts to identify needs; since its 2000 inception, thousands of teens benefited. In FY2023, 30 libraries received more than \$500,000 in funding to enhance students' abilities to deal with life experiences, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for the future. The program is designed to immerse students in learning while providing access to computers, software, and technologies. The Peoria Public Library received \$12,500 to implement a Project Next Generation program at its Lincoln Branch. Other communities benefitting from this program included Normal for a program entitled, "Code Club"; Highwood for "STEAM Powered Teens"; and Chicago Ridge for "You Can Be – Dream Big at Your Library".

Professional Development: The Illinois Library Association receives funding from the Illinois State Library and partners with the Reaching Across Illinois and the Illinois Heartland library systems to provide library leadership training for library directors, those who are brand new or those newer to the position, via "Directors' University." These programs enable library leaders to make the most out of local tax dollars which support the bulk of public library operations in this state.

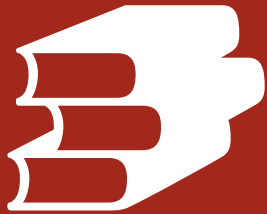
Questions? Contact Executive Director Cynthia Robinson, crobinson@ila.org, 312-644-1897

Illinois Public Libraries by the Numbers FY2022



Illinois has **640** Public libraries with a service area population of **11,795,276**.*

4,018,681 Illinois residents have library cards, about **33%**.



Illinoisans checked out **90,669,914** materials – that's **6** per resident.

E-books, e-audiobooks, and e-videos were downloaded **16,761,285** times.



Illinois residents visited libraries **36,250,320** times.

4,091,202 Illinoisans attended **217,940** library programs either in person or virtually.



Illinois residents connected to library Wi-Fi **23,701,627** times.

Illinois libraries do all this for only **\$70** per person!

