

The Impact of LSTA Funds in Kentucky

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives relies on Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to deliver statewide library development initiatives, special projects, and important services to Kentucky's libraries and communities. This critical funding is tied to matching funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky received **\$2,723,227** in funds to support local libraries through grants from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024.

KENTUCKY VALUES LIBRARIES

Each day, library doors across Kentucky open, welcoming all kinds of people in to borrow a book, use the free Wi-Fi, attend a program, or find information.

Even at home, the library is there, offering eBooks and audiobooks for checkout, and online resources to support jobseekers, veterans, students, and more. Kentucky has more bookmobiles than any other state and these dedicated outreach staff cover many miles to meet those in hard-to-reach places.

Kentucky's public libraries continue to be an asset to the communities they serve.

FY2023–2024 Grant Recipients from KY Congressional Districts:

Marshall County - 1st District: \$1,000.00 - The Marshall County LibMD project empowers individuals in rural communities facing recent medical diagnoses by providing comprehensive resources through curated kits available for loan at the Marshall County Public Library.

Logan County - 2nd District: \$3,000.00 - The grant will give Logan County Public Library staff the opportunity to attend a national conference about how libraries can better serve people the intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) community. This conference will make a dramatic impact on how staff can implement a number of activities and programs to serve their local IDD community.

***Jefferson County - 3rd District: \$4,400.00** - The grant will support the library's pilot of Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School, an online high school completion program for adults (18+) to earn an accredited high school diploma.

Oldham County - 4th District: \$5,000.00 - Oldham County Public Library recognizes that English Language Learners are an underserved population in the county. This grant will collaborate with Kentucky Community and Technical College who will provide GED and ESL classes to local residents whose first language is not English.

Jackson County - 5th District: \$10,000.00 - The Bookmobile requires an infusion of new materials. The project aims to update the Bookmobile with diverse and high-quality materials that cater to all age groups and interests.

Madison County - 6th District: \$9,193.00 - The Madison County Public Library Learning Lab project will remodel the existing space and capitalize on community partnerships to provide a dedicated classroom for skills-based learning, education, and enrichment for all ages.

In Kentucky, LSTA supported programs:

- **Improve public library service throughout the state** by having the Kentucky State Board for the Certification of Librarians program that certifies public library staff and monitors their professional development.
- **Train and support skilled public librarians and effective library boards** ongoing continuing education opportunities, tuition reimbursement, and certification programs for public library staff and trustees. 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 and interlibrary loan program.
- **Kentucky has 73 bookmobiles**, making it the most of any state in the country. Bookmobiles are vital, especially in rural areas, where people live far from their local library and have limited internet access.
- **Provide online resources and tools for library management, digital lending, job and veteran support, and more;** including the support of the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) which provides resources accessible 24/7 online.
- **Assist making archives accessible** through the support of the digital archives and teaching public libraries best practices in digitization and preservation.
- **Support literacy and promote STEM concepts in libraries** with the statewide Collaborative Summer Library Program, over 400 interactive learning and book kits, and support of SIP2GO, a hands-on partnership with the Kentucky Science Center bringing interactive learning to public libraries.
- **Collect and provide data on Kentucky's population, demographics, libraries, programs, and more** through the Library Development Branch and the State Data Coordinator.

