

Request for LSTA funding for Library Development Work

1. Describe your project/idea - What is it? Who will be working on the project? How much funding do you need? What is your timeline?

Funding for a private vendor solution for the public library statistics collection and reporting process.

Pam Henley, Tracy Cook, and IT staff will be working on this project. The loss of key staff during the budget cuts has made it difficult for state library staff to deliver the high quality reporting and collection experience we once had. The legislative session may bring solutions to this problem, but it will take time to implement those solutions. We would like to contract with a private vendor for at least the first year to see if out of the box solutions will address this problem. There are two vendors that provide this type of solution. Most of the State Libraries around the country use one of these two vendors.

We would like to budget up to \$10,000 for this item. We have requested bids to see if that is possible. Those bids are not due until mid-December. If private vendors are able to deliver the solutions we need at a price we can afford, Pam and Tracy with input from librarians will make a recommendation for a vendor based solution. This will happen in December/January. Ideally, we may be able to upload this year's statistics into the product for librarians and board members to review reports this spring. The collection process will begin in the summer of 2019.

2. What does success look like? What are you trying to accomplish?

Success is a product that displays historical data collected by the State Library along with current data in a way that produces useful reports and statistics for librarians, board members, and State Library staff. It will be an easy to use product for librarians as they report their annual public library statistics. State Library staff and librarians will be able to download the raw data to use in a variety of ways. The reports should be meaningful and easy to generate.

Public libraries are required to submit their statistics to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

We are trying to find a product that is easy for them to use and also provides meaningful and relevant reports they can use to tell the library's story and make decisions. Finally, the use of a product such as this may reduce the burden on IT and Library Development staff.

3. Which LSTA goal from the 2018-2022 5-Year Plan does it meet? Which outcomes?

Goal 5 – Adequate Support: Library community has adequate and stable support to provide the best library service possible.

A strong reporting system gives libraries charts, graphs, and information they can use with local government officials and members of their community.

Desired outcomes this can help meet:

- Libraries report increased support from local government officials
- Library directors, staff, advisory members, and board members increase their knowledge and skills about creating, identifying, and measuring public value.