

Memo

To: State Library Commission
From: Darlene Staffeldt
Date: March 31, 2008
Re: Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) funds for FY2008

We have finally received the official notification of the funding that will be coming to Montana. The LSTA allotment for 2007 was \$1,007,986; the allotment for 2008 is \$952,693. This is a loss of \$55,293 in federal library dollars for Montana.

We will be recommending the LSTA budget based on the following criteria:

- Projects address the six LSTA priorities for funding (I have attached a copy of these at the end of this memo) ;
- The proven statewide impact of each existing project;
- Staff resources available for project management;
- Sustaining worthwhile current projects;
- Importance of the project based on the library community's comments during the long-range planning process; and
- Possible innovative new projects which will help us meet the goals of the long range plan.

IMLS Library Services and Technology Act funds help state library agencies make library resources and services, which can be prohibitively expensive to the individual, readily available to an entire community.

The following represents projects that we are currently recommending for funding.

Below you will find a table followed by brief summaries of the proposed projects:

LSTA FY'08
funding

Project	LSTA Goals	\$\$\$\$\$\$	Balance
			952,693
Administration		63,364	889,329
Talking Book Library	4,5,6	189,468	699,861
Network Advisory Council	5	7,500	692,361
Montana Shared Catalog	1,2,3,4,5	226,551	465,810
Statewide Collaborative Access	1,2,3,4,5	280,705	185,105
Statewide Collaborative Content	2,4	139,008	46,097
Statewide Collaborative Programming	1,4	26,097	20,000
Fall workshop	1,2,5	20,000	0

Administration:

Project description: This project includes the Library Services and Technology Act Coordinator and Administration costs. Included are partial salary for the Coordinator, as well as the statewide cost allocation plan (indirect costs) payment.

Project impact: LSTA administration costs are set at a maximum of 4% and cover the cost to manage the state's grant program. The Coordinator works to maintain compliance with all of the federal program requirements, provides the written documentation, and provides advice and assistance for others who are managing LSTA projects.

Approximate project budget : \$63,364

Talking Book Library:

Project description: This project includes the Talking Book Library (TBL) program. Included are partial salaries for six TBL employees as well as a small amount of operational funds for these positions. This project addresses goals 4, 5, and 6 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: TBL provides readers advisory services and materials to 3,882 Montanans who are blind, low-vision, or have physical or reading disabilities.

Approximate project budget: \$189,468

Network Advisory Council:

Project description: The Network Advisory Council (NAC) is the advisory body that provides direction for the Montana State Library, and advice to the State Librarian on all things related to library cooperation, resource sharing, online content and services, and library access, content and programming. This project pays expenses for NAC members to attend meetings as called each year. This project addresses goal 5 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: NAC provides sound counsel and recommends future direction and funding priorities to MSL. NAC has statewide and multi-type library representation, which gives it credibility and makes it an important instrument for MSL to keep attuned to the needs and desires of Montana's libraries.

Approximate project budget: \$7,500

Montana Shared Catalog:

Project description: The Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) is a voluntary consortium comprised, as of March 2007, of 82 libraries serving 425,000 users with 640,000 titles. LSTA funds are used to help interested libraries in joining MSC with start up costs. Project costs also include partial salary for one MSC support position and MSC Director position, as well as full salary for MSC technical support position. Additional software costs related to the Unicorn/Sirsi system that the Shared Catalog platform is built on are included. The project addresses goals 1,2,3,4, and 5 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: MSC is comprised of all kinds and sizes of libraries, with more libraries joining every year. Library patrons can use MSC to search library holdings, learn more about books of interest (reviews, tables of content, summaries, chapter excerpts), scan bestseller lists and determine availability, place holds on library materials, and be notified via e-mail when interesting materials come into the library. Twenty-four MSC libraries have formed innovative partnerships that has them sharing collections and patrons in a very exciting way. MSC continues to grow. Many libraries are interested in joining; there has been special interest from school libraries in the past year. The newest round of applications have come from 2 public, 3 school and 1 combined school public library.

Approximate project budget: \$226,551

Statewide Collaborative Access:

Project description: The goal of this project is to make it possible for Montana libraries to work together and share resources. To accomplish this goal, the project will coordinate access to electronic resources, facilitate access to OCLC tools, maintain directories, and work to establish a statewide cooperative online reference service. State Library staff will research and demonstrate promising technologies and practices to provide better statewide access.

This project includes the salaries for Montana State Library’s three Statewide Technology Librarian positions and expenses for the statewide OCLC group purchase, Ask Montana services, and other collaborative efforts. Also included would be a contracted consultant to assist libraries with network and bandwidth issues to improve public access to electronic resources. This project addresses goals 1,2,3,4, and 5 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: The Statewide Technology Librarians travel more than 16,500 miles a year to provide face-to-face consulting services to libraries in order to improve services to patrons and communities. One consultant coordinates the E-Rate program which brought \$77,000 in discounts for Montana libraries. Another consultant monitors and develops MSL web resources to ensure that the information and support needs of Montana citizens, librarians, and trustees are met.

Approximate project budget: \$280,705

Statewide Collaborative Content:

Project description: The goal of this project is to make it possible for Montana libraries to work together to share and expand upon the resources available to all Montana citizens. To accomplish this goal, the project will coordinate purchase of statewide electronic resources, help build digital library content, work to establish a statewide cooperative audio books collection, research and demonstrate and/or test promising technologies, collections and practices. This project includes the salaries for two special projects staff. This program meets goals 2 and 4 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: More than half of Montana’s 750 libraries receive a direct benefit from statewide collaborative content. Libraries across the state depend upon the State Library to provide direction and leadership on technological advances and to increase the ability of libraries to provide quality services and increased resources to patrons. Statewide collaborative services are essential for meeting MSL’s goal to provide a coordinated and collaborative approach to improving library services statewide.

Approximate project Budget: \$139,008

Statewide Collaborative Programming:

Project description: This project helps public libraries offer programming and other services for a targeted audience group by providing materials, ideas, and web resources. LSTA funds are used for the part-time salary of the project coordinator, plus some production money for developing project materials. This project also promotes summer reading program activities provided statewide by contracting with a children's librarian to represent Montana at the annual Collaborative Summer Reading Program meeting and purchasing program manuals for all public libraries each year. The project will also make it possible for the children's author selected to attend the annual MLA conference to present programs at school and public libraries while in the state. This project meets goals 1 and 4 of the LSTA priorities.

Project Impact: Montana librarians were able to use the What's Your Story? ideas and materials to develop and implement programming for seniors in their communities. Collaborative efforts like this one are important time and resource savers for busy public librarians. The seniors project created an important partnership for libraries with the Montana branch of AARP. The next target audience is baby boomers. The project shows a commitment, though monetarily small, to children's services. Montana libraries are represented at the collaborative planning meeting and receive free program manuals in time to create a customized summer reading program for their communities.

Approximate project budget: \$26,097

2009 Fall Workshop:

Project description: The 11th annual Fall Workshop will be held in September 2009. It will be a 2-day training event, attended by librarians from all types of libraries from all parts of the state, and will feature half-day sessions on a variety of topics, the opportunity for librarians to network, and no registration fee. LSTA funds are used for presenter fees, meeting facilities, materials, etc. This project meets goals 1, 2, and 5 of the LSTA priorities.

Project impact: Librarians are able to receive practical training at a minimum cost to help them provide better services to the public. All topics will directly address the six LSTA priorities. In addition to public librarians, the Fall Workshop also attracts school librarians (a group with which MSL has limited interaction).

Approximate project budget: \$20,000

LSTA PRIORITIES FOR 2008 GRANT AWARD

1. expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages;
2. develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international electronic networks;
3. provide electronic and other linkages between and among all types of libraries;
4. develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations;
5. target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills; and
6. target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty line.