



# Federal Funding for Libraries

**L**ibraries serve a significant role in communities across the nation. Every day, libraries provide no-fee access to computers and the internet, jumpstart small businesses, help people find jobs, support literacy development for children, and help veterans transition to civilian life. During the past year, libraries served their communities by extending free Wi-Fi access to their parking lots, loaning internet hotspot equipment and connected devices to patrons, assisting with unemployment benefit applications, and even supplying access to COVID-19 tests and vaccines. Libraries enabled students to continue learning with minimal disruption, seniors to schedule vaccine appointments and jobseekers to reskill and apply for jobs.

**The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** is the only source of dedicated federal funding for the more than 116,000 public, school, academic, government, and special libraries across the nation. LSTA Grants to States ensure that every state has access to needed resources and authority to determine their use. LSTA funds support a wide range of essential services, including:

- Preparing students for the job market with coding and STEM programs;
- Accelerating business development with services provided by skilled business and technology outreach librarians;
- Supporting people with print disabilities by providing accessible digital and print content;
- Narrowing the digital divide with Wi-Fi and hotspot lending; and
- Providing equitable access to technology for all

Funding of at least **\$206 million** for LSTA and **\$50 million** for IAL allows more than 116,000 public, school, academic, government, and other libraries to advance employment, entrepreneurship, education, empowerment, and engagement in communities across America.

**Please fully fund libraries in FY2022 and sign the LSTA and IAL appropriations letters.**

School libraries and librarians provide targeted literacy skills development and resources for all students, including those in the most high-need areas.

**The Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)** grants are administered by the Department of Education and provide age-appropriate books, parental engagement programs, and professional development for library experts to ensure children are best positioned for success. Greater literacy support at an early age is strongly linked to increased reading scores and progress for students.

Funding of at least **\$206 million** for LSTA and **\$50 million** for IAL is a modest, but critical, investment in your libraries and the opportunities they provide your constituents. **We urge Congress to continue to make full funding for our nation's libraries a priority for FY2022.**