



# Federal Funding for **Libraries**

**L**ibraries serve an important role in communities across the nation. Every day, libraries provide no-fee access to computers and Wi-Fi, jumpstart small businesses, help people find jobs, support literacy development for children, and help veterans transition to civilian life.

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 how to use them. 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;
- Assuring equitable access to high-value research and test preparation resources;
- 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

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

**Funding of at least \$206 million for LSTA and \$27 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 FY2021 and sign the LSTA and IAL appropriations letters.**

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.

The overwhelming support for the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 was Congress's vote of confidence in America's libraries. Funding of at least \$206 million for LSTA and \$27 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 FY2021.

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Library  
Association

For more than 140 years, the American Library Association has been the trusted voice for public, academic, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. Visit [ala.org](http://ala.org).