

**American  
Library  
Association**

**Office of  
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## Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

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### SUMMARY

The LSTA consolidates federal library programs, while expanding services for learning and access to information resources in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and is distributed through state library agencies to individual libraries via formula grants.

Funding is also provided for library services for Native Americans, national leadership projects, and for the education and recruitment of librarians.

The Act links libraries electronically and helps provide users access to information through state, regional, national, and international networks. Federal resources help target library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to people with limited literacy or skills.

### FUNDING HISTORY

LSTA was recently reauthorized as part of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (H.R.13) and signed by the President on September 25, 2003 (P.L. 108-81). Every fiscal year, Congress provides funding for LSTA in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005 Adm. Request</u>
\$168,078,000	\$180,097,000	\$198,242,000	\$220,490,000

***Urge Congress to include \$232 million for LSTA in FY 2005.*** While the library community was pleased with the proposed increase for LSTA in the Administration's FY 2005 budget, funding LSTA at the authorized level of \$232 million would help libraries meet their needs at a time when they are trying to serve a growing number of customers while facing severe cut backs in state and local funding. At this funding level, libraries nationwide could build additional capacity and further expand core services. The ability of libraries to offer programs for families, new readers, new English speakers, and people in the community in need of special outreach services cannot be expanded without an increased federal investment.

The request would also provide essential funding for the recruitment and education of a new generation of library professionals who are prepared to tackle the technological challenges of the information age.

A strong investment by Congress will enable libraries to undertake exciting projects that can help all library users expand their skill and knowledge base to master challenges and encourage lifelong learning.