

2020-2021 LSTA Grant Award Abstracts

Strengthening Capacity

Projects listed below address Goal 1 of the 2018-2022 LSTA Five Year Plan

Strengthening Capacity: North Carolinians will have libraries with essential resources and capable staff that enable them to provide exceptional library programs and services.

Appalachian Regional Library

A 5-Year ARL Plan

Award: \$32,385

So that the people who use our libraries have the services, programs, and materials that best meet their needs, Appalachian Regional Library must reassess its communities and create an up-to-date plan based on the most recent information and input available. This assessment and planning process will ensure that community needs are correctly identified and that community input is appropriately integrated into meaningful library goals, objectives, and activities. The plan will be articulated to the staff and community and implemented in 2021-2022. A consultant will be hired to facilitate this process.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

New Customer Service Model

Award: \$50,000

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Library will work with consultants to develop a new service model that moves staff from a book-centered approach to library services to a customer-centered approach that delivers on the Library's Essential in 2025 blueprint, its Library as Public Commons platform, and ultimately improves lives and builds a stronger community. The service model design consultant and a working staff team will use a human design approach over 15+ weeks to create, test and refine a new customer service model that will ultimately be implemented across the library system.

Chatham County Public Libraries

CCPL Needs Assessment

Award: \$17,881

The public library system in Chatham County will work with a qualified professional to conduct a needs assessment. Users consistently rate customer service positively in ongoing county-conducted surveys. The statistics collected by each branch library, however, indicated a disparity in both programming attendance and circulation of materials. By gathering input and analyzing data from multiple sources, the consultant will develop a plan to provide more equitable library services for the community.

Davie County Public Library

DCPL Five-Year Plan

Award: \$29,494

A five-year plan will be needed to inform the library's priorities in services and programs into the next decade of the 21st Century. This year-long process will ensure that community input is integrated into meaningful goals and objectives and resources identified. The plan will be articulated to the staff and community and implemented in Fiscal Year of 2021. The Davie County Public Library will be hiring a consultant to facilitate this process.

Farmville Public Library*Growing a Healthy Farmville*

Award: \$22,788

In an effort to foster a healthy community, Farmville Public Library will partner with its local health and wellness organizations to offer an enhanced collection of materials, resources and programs that will encourage individuals and families to discover ways to live a healthier lifestyle and put into practice what they've learned. The collection and programs will address barriers to healthy lifestyles that the rural Farmville community faces including obesity, living below the poverty line, and food insecurity by offering a variety of resources and interactive programs led by experts in their fields which will include a StoryWalk literacy and exercise program, a Charlie Cart mobile kitchen and cooking program, a gardening basics program, and a circulating collection of health-related print, electronic and audiovisual materials, and gardening and fitness equipment. Users will be able to access collections and programs by visiting the library's physical and virtual space as well as its mobile pop-up library program.

Fontana Regional Library*Mobile Print Access*

Award: \$46,786

Computer access at the library no longer necessarily means using a library computer, as more people bring their own devices to access our wi-fi. But people who bring their devices to the library cannot print from them. Offering mobile will create greater equity of access to resources for our patrons who need print services. Many of our patrons are seniors with a low level of digital experience; they know how to use their own device (often just a phone) but do not have the facility to switch to a public computer in order to print. These patrons face an insurmountable barrier when they can't access emails or accounts on a library computer.

H.D. Cooley Library*Cooley's STREAM Program*

Award: \$15,867

H. D. Cooley Library is seeking to develop a Science, Technology, Reading, Art and Mathematics Program. The program will help children and young adult patrons stay current with these fields of education. The participants will gain hands on, instructional, and visual learning experiences. They will be given a platform to showcase their artwork, and science projects for the community to enjoy; leaving their footprint at Cooley. The program will help children and young adult patrons stay abreast with robotics and computer science. Participants will broaden their math and reading skills, and learn different art styles.

Harnett County Public Library*Harnett Main RFID*

Award: \$74,904

The Harnett County Public Library will improve patron services at its Main Branch in Lillington, NC by converting its entire physical collection to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). This project includes item tags, conversion station, antennas with readers, self-checkout stations, security gates, and a portable shelf management device. RFID implementation will benefit all of the users in Harnett County's rapidly growing patron-base by automating the checkout process, which will enable staff to devote more time to programming and patron assistance. RFID-enabled collection management tools will also improve catalog accuracy and ensure that our records are reliable for customers.

High Point Public Library*Lockers for Self-Service*

Award: \$22,436

Grant funds will be used for an electronic locker system for holds retrieval at the Deep River Recreation Center to allow customers 24/7 access to materials placed on hold and sent to this location for pick up. Customers have been able to return materials and pick up holds at this location, located six miles from the library in the fastest-growing area of High Point. While materials can be returned anytime in the outdoor book drop, in order to accommodate Parks and Recreation staff, holds can only be picked up for 15 hours a week. The lockers will be located outside the recreation center near the front door, and would provide 24/7 access to holds.

Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library*Active Reading Experiences*

Award: \$5,270

In order to help prepare Clayton's growing population of young families to learn active reading skills and to prepare their children ages 0-6 for Kindergarten, the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library will provide Active Reading Workshops for parents and children and build and circulate 35 Active Reading Experience Kits that contain books, manipulatives, activities, and multimedia resources centered upon a variety of themes. The Active Reading workshops will be presented by the Partnership for Children of Johnston County. These workshops will teach parents how to actively read with children and how to build literacy and kindergarten readiness skills. The circulating Active Reading Experience Kits will include information and activities presented in the Active Reading Workshops, along with books and ancillary materials, thus allowing all library patrons the opportunity to practice early literacy and pre-kindergarten skills and activities at home.

Lee County Libraries*Inclusive Audio Visual*

Award: \$9,750

The Lee County Library auditorium hosts a variety of events each month for a broad range of patrons and is currently lacking the Audio/Visual infrastructure to support them properly. This project will provide new systems to accommodate larger audiences and more advanced and inclusive programming. There will be a sound system installed, including microphones, control board, and speakers along with a video projection system, with a projector, player, and screen. A new portable SMART Board will also be purchased for mobile programs to increase accessibility.

Martin Community College Library*Instruction Lab*

Award: \$22,633

The demographic makeup and service area of Martin Community College, which serves two Tier 1 counties, make our students particularly subject to the achievement gap that has been documented to exist between students of different races, income levels, and geographic areas. Multiple studies have demonstrated that library use can improve students' academic performance. The Martin Community College Library's goal is to decrease the achievement gap for our students by fully equipping the library's new instruction lab and providing targeted programming. The grant funding will provide tablets for use by a pilot class of curriculum students using open electronic textbooks, meeting in the library instruction lab, and having access to an embedded librarian, lecturers for a cultural lecture series in the lab, open to all MCC students, and book discussion group supplies.

Methodist University, Davis Memorial Library*PopUp, Pop In*

Award: \$6,406

In an effort to increase our Individualized Research Assistance (IRA) service, Methodist University's Davis Memorial Library is seeking a LSTA grant to expand our "PopUp" Reference service on campus, as well as create a dedicated space within the library for those appointments to be held. By expanding the presence of the librarians on campus, as well as highlighting the one-on-one research assistance that is available to students, the librarians at Davis Memorial Library hope to create a more personalized relationship with students on campus, thus removing some of the intimidation of utilizing the library and seeking out assistance, and in the long-term, help with student retention.

Orange County Public Library*2021-2024 Strategic Plan*

Award: \$32,438

Since 2017 we have invested significant resources to adopt a community-led philosophy. We have accomplished much, yet there are gaps we must address if we want to keep pace with the changing needs of our community. We see this planning process as an opportune time to receive feedback from internal and external stakeholders, and with this input update our vision and mission statements and core values. Our goal is to create a strategic plan that equips us to use a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion to grow our collections, programs, and services, permit staff who want to go out in to the community to do so, bring an entrepreneurial mindset to finding solutions to address community needs, and create a culture that enables us to move forward with greater clarity and sense of purpose.

Pettigrew Regional Library*Interactive Media*

Award: \$22,100

The Pettigrew Regional Library system seeks grant funding to provide equipment for the community businesses, genealogy groups and art related programming. At the present time, only one of our libraries has an board available for presentations. The other libraries need this equipment so that we will be able to provide the space and equipment needed to make all of our libraries the place to go for presentations in our communities.

Polk County Public Libraries*Strategic Plan FY21-26*

Award: \$22,975

Polk County Public Libraries (PCPL) will hire a consultant to conduct and facilitate the creation of a comprehensive strategic planning process to result in a five-year strategic plan for FY2021-FY2026. The consultant will collaborate with PCPL staff, the Library Board of Trustees, community stakeholders, and the users of PCPL services to create a plan that shapes the future of library services in Polk County. The planning process will include an environmental scan, community-wide surveys, and focus groups to identify community needs and inform priorities. The resulting plan will serve as a guide to ensure that PCPL is positioned to serve the Polk County community and its evolving needs.

Robeson County Public Library*RCPL FY21-26 Plan*

Award: \$26,025

The Robeson County Public Library intends to orient library services and spaces to meet the evolving needs of our diverse community. A new five-year strategic and facility plan will be needed to

appropriately capture community and stakeholder input to design the priorities and objectives, as well as identify space needs throughout the county. In 2020-2021 the Library will hire a consultant to facilitate this vital process. The new five-year strategic plan will be shared with the staff and Trustees, marketed to the community, and then implemented FY 2021-2022.

Union County Public Library

Staff & Strategic Plan

Award: \$30,120

The Union County Public Library will formally complete a comprehensive planning process led by a consultant focused on aligning the public's current and future needs with library services and staffing. By conducting both a strategic plan and a staffing analysis, the library will be better positioned to serve the residents of Union County. Furthermore, with a new library being constructed, the library can ensure its newest facility is adequately equipped with staff, programs, and services to best serve our patrons. Our hired consultant will facilitate the process of gathering input from our various stakeholders and compiling that feedback into attainable goals that will help guide the direction of the library's programs and services over the next three to five years.

Vance-Granville Community College Library

Advancing the Library

Award: \$28,952

Vance-Granville Community College intends to the strengthen the capacity of the library and its students by equipping students with up-to-date technology. Laptops, tablets, smartboards, and other technologies will be purchased to create collaborative and flexible workspaces in the library.

Wayne County Public Library

Roadmap for Wayne Co.

Award: \$11,560

In order to ensure community members have access to comfortable, efficient, up-to-date, and inviting library facilities, in 2020-2021 Wayne County Public Library seeks to hire an experienced consultant to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for library facilities for the county. The purpose of the plan will be to identify current and future library facility needs for Wayne County and to develop recommendations for addressing the needs. The primary outcome for this project will be that the library will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the community's needs regarding library spaces and facilities.

Western Carolina University

A New Library Consortia

Award: \$20,566

Western Carolina University (WCU) requests funding to engage a consultant to assist with planning a collaborative library consortia in partnership with Appalachian State University (ASU), the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT), the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP), the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), East Carolina University (ECU), the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW), and the UNC School of the Arts (UNCSA). The consultant will work with assigned representatives of the libraries and with library administrators to prepare and submit recommendations for establishing and operating the new consortia, including the key areas of governance, funding, and operations.

Wilson County Public Library*WCPL Strategic Plan 2021-2026*

Award: \$22,133

The Wilson County Public Library has completed the goals of our 2015-2020 Long-Range Plan and is seeking LSTA funding to inform the Library's service priorities for 2021-2026. Our goal is to align programs, services, and spaces in ways that address community challenges and reflect the needs of our diverse population. Wilson County is well-known for its collaborative efforts to engage stakeholders in building a stronger community for all citizens. The Library is already included in these community-wide efforts and seeks to design a five-year plan that incorporates and supports future initiatives.

Expanding Access

Projects listed below address Goal 2 of the 2018-2022 Five Year Plan

Expanding Access: North Carolinians will have expanded access to resources for learning and success in school, work, and life.

Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library System*AMY Regional Migration*

Award: \$10,000

NC Cardinal is a growing consortium of North Carolina public libraries with the goal of sharing resources and expanding opportunities through using a single online catalog. The State Library provides initial startup/migration funding for participating libraries to join the consortium. Hardware, software support, and training contracts are funded by the LSTA Grant.

Braswell Memorial Library*STREAM Creator Lab*

Award: \$15,000

Braswell Memorial Library will develop a STREAM creator lab which will include STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Math) activity programs. The activities will compliment skills learned in school, enhance both digital and traditional literacy activities, offer exposure to more technology and provide year round learning sessions. The STREAM creator lab will consist of four in-library sessions per month for nine months (September through May) and two outreach sessions per month for six months (October through March) with a maximum of 25 participants ages 8-15 in each session. These STREAM activities will include but are not limited to robotics, coding, virtual reality, crafts and book clubs.

Burke County Public Library*Burke County Migration*

Award: \$10,000

NC Cardinal is a growing consortium of North Carolina public libraries with the goal of sharing resources and expanding opportunities through using a single online catalog. The State Library provides initial startup/migration funding for participating libraries to join the consortium. Hardware, software support, and training contracts are funded by the LSTA Grant.

Carteret County Public Libraries*Carteret County Migration*

Award: \$10,000

NC Cardinal is a growing consortium of North Carolina public libraries with the goal of sharing resources and expanding opportunities through using a single online catalog. The State Library provides initial startup/migration funding for participating libraries to join the consortium. Hardware, software support, and training contracts are funded by the LSTA Grant.

Catawba County Library

Community Navigator

Award: \$37,582

The library will partner with Appalachian State University to host interns from the School of Social Work to work at the library interviewing high-need patrons, assessing their most immediate needs, and referring them to community resources when possible. Through direct interactions interns will help people navigate services, provide mental health first aid, and facilitate training for library staff including de-escalation strategies and trauma informed care. This project allows the library to strengthen our capacity to connect people to essential resources and to empower library staff to provide exceptional programs and services. It expands our community's access to resources for learning and success in school, work, and life by engaging in a deeper and more meaningful way to meet patrons in need where they are without judgment or stigma. This project further strengthens the library's approach to helping people in need of social-service assistance and reinforces the value of public libraries as a critical community resource aligned to meet community need.

Central Carolina Community College

Bridging AASL Standards

Award: \$5,117

This project aims to provide a series of intensive, entertaining, and educationally-focused sessions to 3rd year students early college high schools in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties. Students are at the Chatham School of Science and Engineering in Siler City, then move to the Pittsboro campus of CCCC (16 miles away) for their 3-5 years in the program. The library hosts workshops for Information Literacy to aid in the transition, give students a sense of comfort in the library, and teach the basic skills needed to conduct research for their college level courses. This project seeks to continue and strengthen these workshops in Chatham county, while also addressing similar issues in each of the college's three county service areas. The workshops aim to help students bridge the gap between high school and college level research, mapping the AASL National School Library Standards to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy. The five AASL Standards are: Inquire, Include, Collaborate, Curate, and Explore.

Chapel Hill Public Library

Chapel Hill Foodways

Award: \$36,000

Chapel Hill Foodways will be a year-long exploration of food traditions, history, and culture in Chapel Hill. This exploration will focus on new immigrant communities as well as untold histories behind our local southern cuisine. We'll learn from historians, chefs, farmers, foodworkers and home cooks about what our foods tell us about who we are, where we've been, and what we might become in the future. This project will enhance Chapel Hill Public Library's (CHPL) reputation as a leader in and convener of community history and heritage. Project elements will include a digital exhibit, a podcast series, a community cookbook, and a series of hands-on workshops and events.

Chapel Hill Public Library

Green Way StoryWalks

Award: \$48,600

Chapel Hill Public Library's Green Way StoryWalk project will connect kids and families with children's books that unfold outdoors, along accessible local green way trails. Green Way StoryWalks will showcase environmentally-themed books featuring diverse voices, protagonists, authors, illustrators, and languages. This project will put engaging, curated, educational content out into the community, regularly providing fresh opportunities for kids to develop as readers and learners. The project will enhance the library's reputation as a certified NC Environmental Education Center and leader in providing environmental education programming, nature play opportunities, and robust reading readiness and literacy services. Library staff will partner with local independent book sellers to curate locally-relevant titles, and work with the Town of Chapel Hill's Parks & Recreation Department and neighborhood groups to site the installations in high-impact locations. Two Green Way StoryWalks installations will be launched with project funds in spring 2021. New stories will be mounted every other month.

Durham County Library

Website Translation

Award: \$9,000

This project aims to translate Durham County Library's website into Spanish. The library's website is our virtual branch. Much like our physical branches allow people to come regardless of the language they speak, we want to ensure that our virtual branch is accessible in the same way. Approximately 34,617 people over age five in Durham County speak Spanish at home. Of those, 51.3% or 17,759 people "speak English less than 'very well.'" The website is a critical access point for understanding and utilizing the library's resources. Current options for Spanish speakers who need to access the library's website are limited and based on confusing and often incorrect automated translations. This project will provide an accurate, user-friendly Spanish translation of the library's website.

East Carolina University

STEM search

Award: \$17,196

East Carolina University's (ECU) J.Y. Joyner Library seeks to expand access to resources, opportunities, and experiences that strengthen science literacy and learning in eastern North Carolina. Project goals are: strengthen capacity through website transformation; increase engagement with the educational community through collaboration among institutions specializing in informal learning opportunities; and further the national five-year plan for STEM Education. ECU is actively collaborating with three museum and science centers located in eastern North Carolina (ENC). The institutions are: A Time for Science (The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at Greenville), Aurora Fossil Museum, and Sylvan Heights Bird Park. The interface will search across the three educational institutions for information about STEM learning resources and content. The partnership outcomes are a blending of formal and informal learning, increased engagement with learners where science disciplines converge, and expanded use of digital platforms for teaching and learning.

Franklin County Library

Franklin Voyager

Award: \$100,000

North Carolinians will have expanded access to resources for learning and success in school, work and life through this request for funding a specialty vehicle for use as a mobile library and information services platform. The project design encompasses the build and deployment of a dynamic library platform in the sense that it not only will deliver traditional and non-traditional bookmobile services but

enable the discovery of new locations and the participation of service area populations related to place, business, civic affiliations and interest. The mobile platform will assure that our brand and its services are more widely recognized and engaged for recreational, informational and educational access.

Gibsonville Public Library

Engaging en Español

Award: \$18,653

As part of an effort to better serve our spanish-speaking community, The Gibsonville Public Library will engage non-library users through targeted pop-up library outreach events, spanish-language communication channels, and the addition of a bilingual part-time staff person. We will gather feedback from the community and use their input to select spanish-languge materials and resources that meet their needs. We will also create and/or provide resources for existing staff members to help make interactions with spanish-speaking residents more positive and fruitful. By partnering with local groups that already have ties to the spanish-speaking community, we will increase the number of residents we are able to reach and serve.

Iredell County Public Library

Sensory Storytime

Award: \$11,241

The Iredell County Public Library proposes to create a sensory storytime for children on the autism spectrum and/or with sensory processing issues to enjoy books, literacy and social interaction. By partnering with the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children, staff will receive training and tips on best practices for sensory storytime. This sensory storytime will include early literacy elements that are part of a more traditional storytime, but materials will be presented in a manner and environment that make children and parents feel secure, at ease and welcomed. In addition to storytime, the library will have available to all patrons, mounted sensory panels for play located in the Youth Services department of the main branch in Statesville, and kits of manipulatives for parents to borrow for their children. The manipulative kits will be available for patrons at all three branches.

Lincoln County Public Library

Beyond the Book

Award: \$50,000

As part of the its mission, the Lincoln County Public Library is committed to literacy and fostering a love for reading. In an effort to increase interest in reading and proficiency in writing, the library will be partnering with Lincoln County Schools to provide author/illustrator talks and writing workshops for children in 2nd through 5th grades. These programs will take place at the library and at select schools across the county. Storywalks® will be installed to help promote the events and introduce works by guest authors/illustrators. After the event, students will be given "My Story" books so they can author their own stories. Teachers will help coordinate a county-wide writing challenge and select some of the best works to be compiled in a bound anthology. Beyond the Book will help engage, excite and expand the reading and writing skills of children in Lincoln County.

McDowell County Public Library

MCPL Mobile Resource Center

Award: \$100,000

The McDowell County Public Library System would like to purchase a bookmobile, a Sprinter Van, to bring library, county, and community resources and opportunities out into the community. Doing so would allow us to not only bring needed library services, but to go beyond the traditional use of

bookmobiles and expand its purpose by bringing these partnerships and the community members that need their resources together. Acquisition of the bookmobile, including the RFP process, can be accomplished in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The project will serve all of McDowell County's population of 45,159 with a goal of providing access to our underserved populations who struggle to access library and community resources, including seniors, children, teens, and those living in low socio-economic areas or those with transportation barriers.

Mitchell Community College,

Make It at Mitchell

Award: \$50,000

The Huskins Library at Mitchell Community College will establish a flexible and multi-functional makerspace lab to support students, faculty, and staff. The creation of the makerspace lab within the library will foster interdisciplinary partnership, cooperation, and innovation. The versatile space will have broad appeal and contain a wide variety of tools, ranging from high-tech to low-tech, and non-technical materials. The makerspace lab will encourage discovery and exploration within a safe, supervised environment. Skills learned in the lab will enhance classroom experiences and contribute to mastery of 21st century skills necessary to work cooperatively and think outside the box. The creative space will cultivate use of tools often used in an employment setting. Exposure to such tools and materials will develop transferable skills, from lab to workplace.

Neuse Regional Library

Literacy Without Barriers

Award: \$29,121

Parents who support their child's learning contribute to their child's success both in school and in life. Yet parents and caregivers are often ill-prepared to partner in their child's learning due to lack of educational attainment and limited technology access. The Neuse Regional Library will support several types of literacy through programs and services that address the intergenerational nature of literacy, and support parents as the first teachers of their children. The Neuse Regional Library will create literacy centers at four locations within the region to meet the essential educational and technology needs of families through (1) one-on-one adult literacy tutoring by trained staff and volunteers that promotes economic growth, increased self-esteem, and empowerment; (2) homework help to prepare children for success in school and life experiences through tutoring; (3) interactive literacy activities between parent and child; and (4) access to technology and internet connectivity to eliminate homework gap barriers.

Northwestern Regional Library

Business in Community

Award: \$46,548

Business in Community is a collaborative digital history project to continue the Surry County "Saving Our Communities" project. The development of local business and industry was a crucial element in the formation of communities in Surry County, NC. Local businesses were, in many cases, formed by families in the community and are important in documenting community life in the 19th and 20th centuries. This project will preserve materials related to history of businesses and industries in Surry County and will include retail and service businesses, farming (tobacco, lumber, dairy & viticulture/wineries), railroads, manufacturing, hospitality, and tourism. It will also add a photographic-rich record to the Surry Digital Heritage website, which currently exceeds 5,600 items. Northwestern Regional Library is the coordinator for this phase of the project. Principal partners will be: Surry

Community College Library, Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, African American Historical and Genealogical Society of Surry County, Surry County Genealogy Association, and Surry County Historical Society.

Onslow County Public Library

Mobile Makerspace

Award: \$11,790

The Onslow County Public Library (OCPL) consists of four branches in which patrons utilize every day. One service that OCPL does not currently offer to the patrons is a makerspace program. Through this grant, we hope to provide a mobile makerspace to each branch of OCPL (Richlands, Sneads Ferry, Swansboro, and the Main branch in Jacksonville). These mobile makerspaces will help children, teens and adults explore new opportunities and discover different career paths and hobbies that they may have never been exposed to. These four makerspaces will consist of (1) 3D printing, (2) circuits, coding and programming, (3) Embroidery and Sewing and (4) Virtual Reality. The mobile makerspaces will allow Onslow County to better serve patrons through new programs and experiential learning with these maker activities in which patrons can learn in small-group settings.

Onslow County Public Library

Onslow County Migration

Award: \$10,000

NC Cardinal is a growing consortium of North Carolina public libraries with the goal of sharing resources and expanding opportunities through using a single online catalog. The State Library provides initial startup/migration funding for participating libraries to join the consortium. Hardware, software support, and training contracts are funded by the LSTA Grant.

Orange County Public Library

Outreach Specialist

Award: \$37,500

The Orange County Public Library seeks to expand the reach of resources and services to children from birth to fifth grade in underserved rural communities in Orange County. A Children’s Outreach Specialist will work with partners including community centers, schools, childcare centers, and organizations such as Head Start and the Health Department to meet the literacy and educational needs of Orange County’s youngest residents. The Outreach Specialist will use the “Boxmobile” service to take books and programs out into community spaces where children and families gather - bridging the access divide for children in Orange County.

[Community Engagement](#)

Projects listed below address Goal 3 of the 2018-2022 Five Year Plan

Community Engagement: North Carolinians will have libraries that are more effective because they cooperate, coordinate, collaborate, and communicate to help the community address its needs.

Neuse Regional Library

Wi-Fi For All

Award: \$75,000

The Neuse Regional Libraries will increase access to wireless broadband Internet in Jones County, North Carolina. The Library will establish 10 drive-in Wi-Fi locations throughout the County. This project will include the purchase of two under-200 feet towers placed in strategic locations in the heart of Jones County to reach formerly inaccessible regions of the County, ensuring that the project will be able to reach all ten of the planned Wi-Fi public hotspots. The Library will also make Chromebook laptops available to the public for checkout. By making these laptops available to the public, the Library will ensure that every Jones County resident has access to a device that can be used with the public Wi-Fi hotspots to complete educational and career-related tasks. By increasing access to wireless internet, the Library will reduce the homework gap facing local students while also providing residents with new opportunities for educational and career growth.

University of North Carolina Wilmington, William Madison Randall Library

The NC 7th District

Award: \$38,550

As the 2020 elections approach, residents and students in Southeast North Carolina find themselves navigating a contentious political climate as they cast their votes not only for President, but also for their Congressional Representatives in the Seventh and Ninth Districts, a United States Senator, Governor, and a host of other state and local offices. The Libraries at the University of North Carolina Pembroke (UNCP) and the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) will take this opportunity to encourage civic engagement in and promote non-partisan dialog about the political process. Both libraries will accomplish these goals by enhancing access to their resources related to the Federal government through public programming, exhibits, and the digitization and promotion of archival materials and government publications.

Wayne County Public Library

Dudley, NC Digital Inclusion

Award: \$75,000

This project will have a three-pronged approach (access, devices, and technical support services) to help provide an equity of digital resources for the Dudley community. Wayne County Public Library seeks to provide broadband access to the Dudley community by placing Open Broadband antennas on a mast attached to the water tower located within the Dudley community. This project will also provide a free, high speed, public Wi-Fi access point outside of the Steve and Susan Parr Family Learning Center in Dudley. Funds will also be used to purchase 30 Chromebooks to be loaned to the families who have children enrolled at the learning center and to their siblings who attend Brogden Primary School. Wayne County Public Library staff will provide comprehensive technology training on topics including, but not limited to, e-government services, library digital resources, and school related apps and websites.

[Special Projects](#)

Special Projects are those that arise on an ad hoc basis which meet the requirements of the LSTA plan and priorities and that have a clear benefit for the libraries of a community of interest or for all of the state's libraries.

North Carolina Library Association*2020 NCLA Leadership Institute*

Award: \$5,000

The NCLA Leadership Institute is an intensive four-day residential event designed to cultivate and inspire North Carolina library leaders. The institute will take place September 16-19, 2020 at Black Mountain YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC. In addition to the four-day event, participation in the Leadership Institute requires the following commitment from each participant: a one-year commitment to engage in a group mentor/mentee relationship, attendance at a one-day follow up session, and participation in the 2021 NCLA Biennial Conference. The mission of the Leadership Institute is to create opportunities for learning and skill building in leadership and mentoring. The Institute cultivates an improved understanding of self and others while inspiring participants to serve in leadership roles within the profession at local, state, and national levels. This project is requesting funding to support the Leadership Institute to assist with strengthening library leadership throughout the state of North Carolina.

UNC-Chapel Hill University Libraries*NC Digital Heritage Center*

Award: \$525,573

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center supports community engagement and lifelong learning by promoting and increasing access to North Carolina's cultural heritage. The Center does this by helping libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions throughout the state to digitize materials from their local and family history collections and make them freely accessible online. The Center also helps North Carolina institutions share information about their digital collections with a national audience through the Digital Public Library of America. The Center is committed to providing fast and flexible services that meet the changing needs of North Carolina's cultural heritage institutions.

Statewide Leadership Projects

Statewide Leadership Projects are those with broad, statewide impact and are developed by the State Library in response to emerging or broad-based needs that are consistent with the LSTA plan and priorities.

21st Century Libraries will provide access to the LibGuides platform for the State Library of North Carolina, 58 community college libraries, and 82 public library systems across the state. This platform allows library staff to easily create online content for users in a hosted environment.

#EverythingNC engages users by making State Library materials freely accessible, collaborates with other organizations to preserve and make digital content available, and engages with a growing digital preservation community. We will maintain our established collaboration with the State Archives of North Carolina (SANC) through continued testing of LibSafe for digital preservation, developing a pilot collection in the CollectionBuilder tool, and expanding access to military oral histories of North Carolina veterans. We will also develop and broaden access to our Personal Digital Archiving workshops, both onsite and across the state, while pursuing plans to establish a statewide digital preservation community.

Adult Services goal is to provide professional development opportunities and collaborative experiences to enhance or improve library staff skills in providing programs and services to the diverse group of adult users throughout the state.

Building Partnerships will provide teachers the opportunity to attend workshops delivering expert instruction on primary sources that can be customized to the needs of school districts statewide. The NC Government & Heritage Library and the UNC Greensboro University Libraries have partnered to address this need by implementing workshops designed in year 1 of this project. These workshops provide teachers with expert instruction on information literacy and primary sources which can be adapted to a virtual format and customized to the needs of school districts statewide. Through year 1 of this project, the planning committee identified K-12 district partners, created workshop curriculum and assessment tools, and developed application and selection criteria. During year 2, these identified K-12 partners will (by region/district) be invited to send teams of teachers to the workshop; this team format will help schools develop their own multi-disciplinary approach to implement the knowledge gained, once back in the classroom. As these six in person workshops progress, the planning committee will work with presenters to record online versions of the presentations to create a module-based virtual workshop in which all school districts across North Carolina can participate.

Continuing Education will support and provide professional development opportunities for North Carolina library staff in order to improve services and access to resources. The Continuing Education program provides access to in-person learning opportunities and online resources that enhance library services and promote excellence and innovation. This project will also support scholarships for library staff to attend relevant regional, state, and national conferences, as well as scholarships to online courses that meet the continuing education needs identified through the 2018-2020 Continuing Education Survey.

Evaluation and Assessment seeks to empower library staff to implement formative and summative evaluation strategies to improve service to library users by providing data focused training and supporting a peer learning cohort. This year's training will offer up to 10-12 webinars, up to 2 in-person learning opportunities, up to 4 virtual peer learning cohort meetings and access to LibPAS, the software used to report Public Library Survey data.

LD CONNECT's goal of providing exceptional service will be through education/training and fostering community engagement. the project specifically provides foundational education and/or focused training and community engagement opportunities via programming, scholarships, and online resources.

NC Cardinal provides North Carolina residents with greater access to North Carolina resources by providing the tools, framework and expertise necessary to administer a common, online catalog, share catalog items among member libraries and expand opportunities for optimization of cost efficiencies and collaborative collection development. NC Cardinal seeks to improve resource sharing throughout the NC Cardinal consortium by conducting a consortium-wide assessment of resource sharing activities, focusing on the mechanisms and procedures used for resource sharing, analysis of the return on investment that a shared integrated library system and shared materials offer to Cardinal member libraries, and any possibilities for shared collection development.

New Director Orientation project will provide a two-day orientation at the State Library for North Carolina Public Library Directors who are new to their positions to share information on the services of the State Library, Library Development, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Government Heritage Library and other North Carolina partner agencies; and to provide learning opportunities with other new directors.

Public Library Standards 2021 will fund the work of a selected professional consultant to create an effective North Carolina public library standards document and implementation resources that will serve as a dynamic tool providing consistent, community focused and measurable guidelines applicable to all public libraries. Data collected from the 2019-20 LSTA funded public library standards assessment project will be shared with the consultant and used in the drafting of standards.

Scholarships will fund the attendance of public, academic, community college, and special library staff to local, state, and national conferences of their choice as it relates to their positions within libraries. On a quarterly basis, State Library staff will review the applications submitted to ensure that applications illustrate the relevance of the conference and how attendance ties to the State Library's LSTA Program 5-Year Plan priorities

SLNC Professional Development will specifically provide educational and training opportunities at the individual and organizational levels via programming, formal training activities and conference attendance for SLNC staff.

Youth Services will provide professional development opportunities centered around services for birth through teens which will result in improved programs and resources in North Carolina libraries. Both in-person and online continuing education opportunities will be provided to maximize impact. The project will also provide travel for the project manager to attend a national conference for teens services in public libraries. Continuing education opportunities will be evenly spread across the age spectrum.

LSTA Program Administration funds the majority of LSTA administrative costs incurred by the State Library.