Strengthening Capacity

Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library System

Take the Library Outside   Award: $15,000

The "Take the Library Outside" project ignites the ability to engage key community issues through books while also offering a safe outdoor opportunity to learn, move and engage for all ages and all abilities. Through this project and in purchasing an audio component to the story trail, we bring the library outside and encourage social, emotional, literacy and gross motor development for all ages. Accessibility will be the driver for how this project is constructed. The Riverside Story Trail will be a catalyst in developing collaborative, outdoor programming that involves nature, literacy and movement.

BHM Regional Library

BHM Regional Planning Grant   Award: $30,705

BHM Regional Library will be hiring a consultant to assist in preparing a new Five Year Plan for the Library System with an additional Feasibility Study. The Five Year Plan will be a roadmap for improving services not only at the branches, but also for an expansion of Outreach Services to better reach our rural customer base. A Feasibility Study will be conducted to determine the best and highest use of the Main Library in Washington, NC. As a second public library in a small town, we want to discover potential uses for the Main Library outside traditional library services that still meet the mission of BHM Regional Library.

Fontana Regional Library

Planning for Sustainability   Award: $14,590

This project will develop a new Strategic Plan for the Fontana Regional Library utilizing the philosophy and methodology of the Triple Bottom Line. The new Strategic Plan will set goals and objectives for the library that will promote the provision of programs and services in a sustainable way in very uncertain times. The consultants will recommend steps that will enhance the library's partnerships within the community. Integrating library goals and objectives with those of the many communities of interest that the library serves will guide the development of a Strategic Plan that incorporates sustainability.

Fontana Regional Library

RFID Inventory   Award: $11,297

Fontana Regional Library seeks to streamline the inventory process and improve the accuracy of our collection management. We plan to purchase inventory wands that will leverage the existing RFID technology used for tagging our collection. The tag-reading wands will enable staff to perform an annual inventory as well as ongoing collection monitoring in a fraction of the time that would be required to scan every item barcode by hand. The technology integrates with our ILS to help staff find missing and uncataloged items in addition to errors in shelving, status, and labeling. Implementing this more automated inventory method will facilitate collection monitoring on an ongoing basis, thereby increasing patrons' ability to correctly locate materials available for borrowing and also improving our stewardship of these resources.

Forsyth County Public Library

RFID at Three Branches   Award: $69,669

The Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) is applying for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) security gates, staff conversion/workstations, self-check kiosks, and supporting software for its branches that are currently without the technology. These branches are the Carver School Road Branch, the Rural Hall Branch and the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center. RFID technology is already in use at six branches and our Central location. The presence of RFID technology has led to higher customer satisfaction, greater circulation accuracy, improved collection security, and greater efficiency. Implementing RFID at FCPL's remaining three branches will offer all Forsyth County customers an up-to-date user experience and contact free circulation, which has become increasingly important in the midst of the current public health crisis. The project will also allow the Library and its staff to continue to streamline circulation functions and enhance collection management processes. Lastly, if approved, the 2021-2022 LSTA project grant will enable FCPL to be fully integrated with RFID self-checkout at all locations.

Gardner-Webb University
Gardner-Webb Media Lab   Award: $37,525

The goal of this project is to meet the educational technology needs of faculty, staff, students, and the community upgrade Gardner-Webb University's Dover Memorial Library. Grant funds will allow for the purchase of laptops, 3D printer, tablets, digital signage, mounted Apple TV, 3-D printer supplies, negative Scanner, and high-speed scanner to fulfill the need for computers and technologies compatible with the current presentation, teaching, research, and study needs of library patrons.

Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library
Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library Strategic Plan   Award: $8,730

 The Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (HEML) will develop a new 5-year strategic plan to allow the library to provide user-focused resources, library programming, and services. To begin this planning process, a library consultant will engage with the public, town administration, library staff and library stakeholders to identify and recommend library goals, objectives, and strategies. The consultant will glean feedback from staff interviews and surveys as well as from public engagement and will facilitate brainstorming sessions with staff. Finally, the consultant will work with library staff to develop an actionable and dynamic strategic plan that meets the mission, vision, and goals agreed upon by stakeholders and staff.

McDowell County Public Library
McDowell County RFID   Award: $56,183

The McDowell County Public Library system requests LSTA funding to install and implement Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology at both library locations in Marion and Old Fort. The funds from this project will provide security gates and tagging for the entire collection; several self-checkout stations; and obtain the RFID inventory equipment needed to significantly improve the accuracy of the library catalog. This will allow materials become available more quickly, improve inventory control, free staff to spend more time assisting patrons and providing additional services, provide patrons an additional level of privacy, and provide opportunities for contactless transactions.

Mooresville Public LIbrary

Creating Access in 28117   Award: $99,912

Creating Access in 28117 will provide the automated self-service equipment to support a branch library for Mooresville Public Library in the 28117 ZIP code of Southern Iredell County. This branch library project has long been a desire for the Town of Mooresville especially as the western side of the town has continued to grow. The projected growth for the Town of Mooresville is 50,000 people by 2025 with an overall service population in Sothern Iredell County closer to 75,000 people.

Neuse Regional Library

Our Stories   Award: $17,883

Neuse Regional Libraries will promote a love of reading and health literacy by helping local students create stories that are representative of our diverse communities through digital learning projects. The library will utilize a digital story platform to assist children in developing original stories that will be illustrated through the Teen Mentoring program and by local artists. These beautiful creations will then be transformed into PopUp StoryWalks available at different destinations throughout our region for community members to enjoy at a leisurely pace while spending time outdoors. The Our Stories Project will be used as anchors for outreach initiatives at local events and popular nature meeting spaces to raise the Library's profile in the community and provide access to a broader audience.

Orange County Public Library

Resiliency in Service   Award: $37,343

Orange County Public Library will launch a customer focused and resilient circulation process that will support new options for customers to borrow materials, enable staff time to be shifted to support Strategic Plan goals, and allow an agile response to adverse conditions while maintaining services . These goals will be met through three stages: building out our infrastructure with new equipment and training, using the gains in efficiency to design a new model in service desk staffing to shift staff time from basic functions to higher impact services, and finally implementing the strategic plan goals to provide a more robust collection of library services on and off site.

Perry Memorial Library

StoryWalk(TM) Adventures in Vance   Award: $11,339

Perry Memorial Library's StoryWalk(TM) Adventures in Vance project will provide access to fun intergenerational literacy opportunities in Vance County. This project will create an outside learning space at Fox Pond Park for families to participate together in sensory exploration, outdoor engagement, physical activity and to foster a love of reading. Families with children pre-school aged to 8 years old will benefit from this project as it will encourage enriched cognitive experiences, social and emotional development, and enable children the ability to understand and enjoy the world around them. Stories will be selected that spark imagination, aid in building vocabulary, develop social and emotional skills, build character, and involve movement activities. At the end of the StoryWalk(TM), participants will find additional resources to further their experiences.

Perry Memorial Library

Perry Memorial Library Strategic Plan   Award: $27,000

Perry Memorial Library is a single-branch library serving all of Vance County. Being centrally located in the City of Henderson leaves many outlying areas with limited access to library services. Additionally, access to technology and internet continues to be a challenge for community members. We seek funding to assist in undertaking a comprehensive community assessment to determine three key elements: who is not using the library and why; what library services are residents not aware we provide; and what services residents need that we can add. We will then use the information from the assessment to plan for the future direction of library services. This plan aims to involve staff, trustees, community leaders, and all segments of the Vance County community.

Polk County Public Libraries

RFID for Self-Service   Award: $18,633

Polk County Public Libraries (PCPL) will strengthen capacity by implementing RFID-based self-service as the primary means of check out at both the Columbus and Saluda Libraries. The addition of a shelf management tool will reduce check in errors and the number of patrons inconvenienced by catalog inaccuracies. By reducing the staff time needed for routine and repetitive tasks, the Libraries can reallocate staff resources, resulting in increased opportunities for community engagement. Staff will be able to provide more meaningful and complex customer services like technology assistance and reader's advisory, as well as be better equipped to fulfill long-term goals established in the Library's Strategic Plan.

Randolph County Public Library

StoryWalks(TM) Bridge Literacy Gap   Award: $10,800

In June of 2020, the Liberty Public Library, one of seven library locations in Randolph County, erected a temporary book walk as part of the Imagine Your Story Summer Reading Program. The response in the community was not only overwhelming, but illustrated how successfully StoryWalks(TM) can meet a number of needs in our community: preparing children for educational success, bridging early literacy gaps, and fostering family engagement. The Randolph County Public Library (RCPL) is seeking LSTA funds to place a StoryWalk(TM) at parks in each of two towns: Franklinville and Liberty. We will utilize early literacy resources and community connections developed by the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) to enrich and promote this project.

Rockingham County Public Library

Patron Self-Service   Award: $79,678

Rockingham County Public Library's Long-Range Plan calls for self-service stations, RFID technology, computer self-registration, print management and credit card terminals to be implemented within the next four years. The current pandemic has shown that there is uncertainty for both staff and patrons regarding safety due to in-person interactions in the library. We feel that the time is right to move to a level of technology that covers all of these areas and promotes a sense of safety and security for our staff and patrons. The new technology will also streamline library transactions and allow staff to provide additional patron services with a focus on teen specific programming.

Sandhill Regional Library System

Green Screen Studio Presents   Award: $16,284

Over the past year the COVID-19 quarantine has forced a universal shift to distance working and learning. Parents have done double duty as remote employees and home-school supervisors, while students have adapted to increased screen time and decreased social connection with peers. Libraries, too, have been forced to rethink everything from check-in procedures to online content and digital resources. Instead of in-person library events, Zoom, Facebook Live story time sessions, and video recording with personal cell phones have become the norm. Book clubs, staff training, and instructional services have moved online as well. Not surprisingly, an ALA survey found demand for virtual library services has escalated with an increased use of virtual library cards, digital content, and virtual programming. To meet the needs of library users during COVID-19 and beyond, SRLS staff plan to setup the Green Screen Technology in a makerspace area, to allow patron access through in-house use at designated times and to allow staff to create digital video projects and present more engaging virtual programs.

Stanly Community College
ILS Planning for CC Libraries!   Award: $42,300

The Stanly Community College Library, along with its partners Gaston College Libraries, Catawba Valley Community College Library, Surry Community College Library, and Lenoir Community College Library, will employ a project planner to assist in the development of a plan to migrate their five libraries to Evergreen, an open source ILS, and work to establish a shared ILS model that any community college library in the state can use. The planning process will help strengthen relationships among all of the community college library Directors and Deans in order to create lasting partnerships that center around a technologically advanced ILS that better meets the demands of our student population.

Wilson County Public Library
Gaming for Digital Literacy   Award: $8,250

Wilson County Public Library will create new programming, using newly purchased gaming equipment to promote digital literacy in Wilson County. Our goal is to enhance knowledge of digital resources, including gaming and virtual reality experiences, for all ages. Research has shown that gaming promotes increased concentration, coordination, problem-solving, and social skills. Virtual reality is also a very useful tool in exploring careers and completing job training. Many of the residents that are served do not have access to this technology. Through providing gaming consoles, virtual reality headsets, and a variety of games, this technology can be brought to library customers and bridge the digital divide in our community.

Expanding Access

Alamance County Public Libraries
Expanding Access: Alamance Remote   Award: $43,522

Alamance County Public Libraries will use grant funds to extend access to our materials outside of regular library hours, as well as provide no-contact access to library materials for individuals who prefer it, through placing remote material delivery lockers at one of library locations. With library buildings limiting hours due to Covid-19, access has been restricted by over 50%. Remote delivery lockers allow patrons to access materials at all hours.

Catawba County Library

Library Outpost   Award: $49,997

The Catawba County Library will expand library services and outreach efforts to support the community of Long View, NC by setting up a Library Outpost, hosted at a local laundromat and open seven days a week. The Outpost will be equipped with a remote locker system and laptop computers, providing convenient free access to empowering library resources when and where they are needed. The remoteLocker™ system will enable patrons to browse from a collection of library resources on-site as well as check out library materials from other library locations through the hold process. The laundry facility provides free Wi-Fi and will facilitate in-house laptop lending. This centralized location will also become a monthly stop for the Library to Go mobile unit to conduct story time, STEAM, health and wellness, technology, and workforce development programs. The Library to Go Librarian will also collaborate with the LiveWell Catawba Coalition, the Catawba County Partnership for Children, and other agencies addressing critical community needs.

Craven-Pamlico Regional Library

Spots & Tops   Award: $41,685

The digital inclusion project, "Spots &Tops," will provide access to technology and bandwidth to Craven Pamlico Regional Library (CPRL) populations who, due to availability and affordability, have limited access. The main goal of the project is to decrease the digital divide for the families and individuals that fall into the technical divide by establishing a Digital Lending Library at each location. Outcomes include users of "Spots &Tops" discovering library eResources, improving access to education, providing access to workforce development, entrepreneurship, and fostering the personal and cultural growth of the patrons of CPRL.

East Carolina University/Academic Library Services

Open ETDs for Outreach   Award: $20,850

At East Carolina University (ECU), recent theses and dissertations are available online through our institutional repository (IR) and ProQuest's subscription database. However, the majority of pre-2010 theses and dissertations are only available as physical copies within the library. This project would digitize print theses and dissertations for deposit into our IR in order to expand access to the university's scholarship creating open access to electronic theses and dissertations (ETD). Outsourcing digitization will provide a critical mass of content in a timely fashion. We plan to use the occasion of digitization to strengthen relations with alumni and their family members. Library personnel from Scholarly Communication and University Archives will collaborate with college and department administrators, Alumni Association, and University Advancement on this outreach component. A best practices document on engaging university departments and alumni through a thesis and dissertation digitization project will be shared with the library community.

Elizabeth City State University / G. R. Little Library

Production and Maker Lab   Award: $49,770

G.R. Little Library at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) seeks to improve its services and user experience with a production lab (maker's space) that includes a video production space, small-scale manufacturing equipment, and professional-grade scanning technology. This production lab will enable

the library to provide collaborative learning space and boost online education by creating instructional videos. Also, the lab will be designed to assist library users in creating their digital content while providing a platform for faculty to teach hands-on practice learning techniques. The library's main underlying goal is to provide its library users the necessary tools to develop visual and digital literacy using emerging technologies.

Farmville Public Library
Supporting STEM Literacy   Award: $34,917

To foster an enjoyment of learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in children and teens, Farmville Public Library will partner with local STEM organizations and experts to offer materials, programs and tutoring services to create valuable out-of-classroom experiences that will demonstrate how STEM subjects connect to everyday life and careers. The collection and programs will promote curiosity, critical-thinking skills, creativity, and education for children and teens while also equipping parents and caregivers with the tools to offer STEM learning opportunities at home, and in preschool and after-school classrooms. The program will create opportunities to explore how real-world problems are solved through STEM and will be supported by offering circulating activity kits, a 3-D printer, a circulating collection of STEM-related materials, tutoring, and other essential STEM equipment and learning opportunities. Users will be able to access collections and programs by visiting the library's physical and virtual space as well as through its outreach library programs.

Fayetteville State University / The Curriculum Learning Resources Laboratory
Deserts to Treasures   Award: $32,221

The purpose of the From Deserts to Treasures literacy project is to increase access to reading resources within District 10 of Cumberland County Schools. Such resources will be made available to in service and preservice teachers as well as students and families within District 10. Fayetteville State University alumni and faculty will provide monthly literacy experiences for early childhood sector within the targeted district. A special part of this outreach involves staff partnering with reading specialist and Cumberland County Public Children's Librarians to host three professional development sessions, designed for both in service and preservice teachers. The ultimate goal of this project is for in-service and preservice teachers to model literacy experiences relevant to the community, to foster the love of reading for students within these underserved communities, and to build a window to the world.

Fayetteville Technical Community College/Paul H. Thompson Library
Fayetteville Tech Makerspace Lab   Award: $11,936

The Paul H. Thompson Library Makerspace Lab will be an active learning space where students are able to work independently or in small groups to create, learn and share ideas to achieve their educational goals through access to a wide variety of evolving technologies. Transforming an underutilized but highly accessible space located across from the Paul H. Thompson Student Learning Commons. The room Is highly visible to students, faculty and staff with floor to ceiling glass walls that allow the curious passerby to watch the creative process and be inspired to come in and join the fun creating visual aids that will bring their class presentations to a higher level. The Makerspace will improve the Library's capacity to support student-centered learning education services to on-campus and distance learners in support of Fayetteville Technical Community College's institutional goals to establish a culture of quality customer service and focus on workforce preparedness to support economic development.

Granville County Library System

Granville Hotspot Initiative   Award: $5,055

The mission of the Granville County Library System (GCLS) is to provide equal access to information, lead in literacy, and inspire our community to grow and learn together. The Wi-Fi Hotspot Initiative is aligned with our mission as it will extend internet access beyond the library, thereby reducing the digital divide within the County. Through the free circulation of these hotspots within Granville County, this initiative will bring high-speed internet to those who cannot afford it, or do not have access to broadband internet infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the necessity of internet access for information sharing, education, and recreation. Many employers and schools require high-speed internet for work and learning. Increased isolation due to the new health guidelines make online socialization and entertainment services vital to an individual's mental health. Never has high-speed internet offered such potential to increase a person's quality of life and been so central to our library's mission of community equality, education, and growth.

Henderson County Public Library

Mobile Resource Center   Award: $100,000

The Henderson County Public Library System proposes the purchase of a Mobile Resource Center that will provide access to library, county, and community information and resources to underserved populations throughout Henderson County. This vehicle will go beyond the traditional use of a bookmobile by partnering with community organizations to address the literacy, digital access, and basic health and wellness needs of individuals who encounter barriers to needed resources. Through strategically planned stops and attendance at community events, this project will benefit both current and future library users by taking literacy, technology, educational resources and programming into the communities that need them the most.

High Point Public Library

Extending Our Outreach   Award: $48,848

 Funds will be used to recruit a community liaison and implement service to build relationships with residents of underserved communities. The focus will be on residents with the greatest needs like households with limited access to healthy foods, transportation, and high levels of poverty, and special population like senior citizens, and people with mental or physical disabilities. The community liaison will plan and implement programs, for which we are purchasing technology. The success of this proposal will be based on increased circulation in the 27260 zip code, participation in bookmobile programming, and partnerships. When the funding from the LSTA grant is exhausted these community relationships and partnerships will be sustained by current staff members in the library. This grant will give the HPPL the opportunity to better serve the most vulnerable and underserved communities in our area.

Lincoln County Public Library

Growing STEM Outreach Vehicle   Award: $100,000

The purpose of this project is to expand student access to STEM enrichment activities and the library's digital resources through a new partnership with Lincoln Charter Schools and community STEM outreach events. The Lincoln County Public Library is requesting support to purchase a vehicle that would be

dedicated to STEM outreach at schools and public events and is equipped to serve as a "pop up" STEM lab. All Lincoln County kindergarten through 12th grade students will benefit from the library's enhanced ability to present hands-on STEM learning programs in the classroom and community. The expansion of public engagement through STEM activities at schools and public events will bring awareness of library services; resulting in the creation of new library accounts, increasing materials circulation, and program attendance. It will also raise awareness of STEM curriculum and strengthen student's skills as related to STEM education.

Nantahala Regional Library
NC Cardinal 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.

Neuse Regional Library
NRL Digital Media Lab   Award: $42,391

Neuse Regional Libraries are committed to fostering learning of 21st century digital literacy skills, inspiring creativity that opens new educational and professional doors for local residents, and engaging the community in modern and novel ways. In pursuit of these areas of focus, NRL will establish a Digital Media Lab for use by the residents of Lenoir, Greene, and Jones Counties. The lab will give residents access to digital media creation tools such as computer workstations with powerful processing and necessary software for editing; video equipment including a green screen and professional lighting; and audio equipment such as high quality microphones, musical instruments, and mixers. The Library will provide staff assistance with using this equipment and will hold instructional programming that introduces community members to the things they can accomplish with it, providing opportunities for the aspiring musicians, directors, and content creators of our community while also creating its own content in the form of a library podcast.

New Hanover County Public Library
Virtual Programming Support   Award: $20,000

The purpose of this project is to expand and enhance virtual programming. This includes the technology for staff to film, edit, and stream programs as well as craft and storytime supply kits for patrons to use while participating in virtual programs at home. The recent COVID pandemic has resulted in a shift from 100% in person programs to 100% virtual programs. This project will allow the library to improve the quality of our virtual programs, resulting in enhanced patron experiences. Post-pandemic, when in-person programming resumes, we will continue to use the equipment and supplies to offer virtual programs. This will increase access to library programs by providing patrons with an alternative program format if they are not able to participate in person or simply prefer virtual programming.

North Carolina A&T State University/F.D. Bluford Library
Bluford Maker Lab   Award: $50,000

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT) currently lacks a multidisciplinary project learning space on campus that is open to any NCAT sutdent, offers extended hours, and has a

diverse set of resrouces to support hands-on student learning across the disciplines.   F.D. Bluford Lbirary seeks to expand access to this resource by creating a maker space where all students on campus can create digital and physcial objects and access emerging technology critical for their success beyond the University. This maker space will allow hands-on ways to augment classroom learning, offer project-focused workshops to guide makers, and support the growing need for out-of-class activities that allow students to put theory into practive by creating projects. Moreover, this space aims to be a place where any faculty memeber can integrate making directly into their classroom instruction, a service not currently offered.

North Carolina A&T State Univeristy/F.D. Bluford Library
Community Creating Research Objects   Award: $93,704

To increase our students' information literacy and research skills, and to support online learning, F.D. Bluford Library at North Carolina A&T State University aims to collaborate with students to create instructional videos. These videos will be housed on our library's website under a creative commons license and available for instructors and academic support services to incorporate into their teaching. The program aims to provide the tools that students need to produce original research. More importantly, however, by allowing students to take the lead on content creation, we are not only helping them gain a deeper understanding of research and information literacy, but we are also helping them see themselves as creators of knowledge. Our anticipated outcomes are twofold. First, users will be able to improve these core skills and access this information anywhere, and second, by having the library produce quality tools for information literacy and research, we will improve the overall instruction of these areas.

Person County Public Library
NC Cardinal 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.

Surry Community College Library
Families in Community   Award: $45,384

Families in Community is a collaborative digital history project to continue the Surry County "Saving Our Communities" project. The history of Surry County is not complete without information about the families that settled and lived here throughout the centuries. The Carlos Surratt Genealogy Collection in the Surry Community College Library has served genealogy researchers since its formation in the early 1980s. This phase of the project will focus on digitizing materials in the collection related to the history of families in Surry County. The materials digitized will be added to the Surry County Digital Heritage website, which currently numbers more than 11,000 items. Surry Community College Library is the coordinator for this phase of the digital history project. Other partners in this project will be: Northwestern Regional Library (Surry County branches), Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, African American Historical and Genealogical Society of Surry County, Surry County Genealogy Association, and Surry County Historical Society.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte / J. Murrey Atkins Library

Hotspot Lending Award: $49,414

Seven UNC System Libraries (UNC Charlotte, Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, UNC Asheville, UNC Pembroke, and Winston-Salem State University) are seeking grant funding to develop an inter-institutional mobile hotspot lending program. Grant funding will enable partner libraries to procure a pool of mobile hotspot devices, cover monthly service fees, and loan these devices to students, faculty, and staff who are dispersed throughout the state of North Carolina and have unreliable Internet. The recent shifts to virtual instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the significant barriers many students already face when required to participate in online courses and complete assignments. Likewise, many faculty and staff who provide direct instruction or support students experience noteworthy internet connectivity barriers when working away from campus. By removing the internet connectivity barrier, this inter-institutional mobile hotspot lending program will help level the playing field for citizens across North Carolina.

Warren County Public Library

NC Cardinal 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.

Wayne County Public Library

Wayne County Mobile Library Award: $50,000

In order to deepen the impact of its existing outreach services, Wayne County Public Library (WCPL) seeks to add a mobile library. Funds are being sought to assist the library with the conversion of a retired EMS vehicle into a mobile library. The mobile library, equipped with materials, technology resources, and trained professionals will deliver a library experience focused on community members who experience significant barriers that prevent their access to traditional library services. This project will allow for more impactful library outreach services. Expanding beyond traditional book lending, the mobile library will make use of mobility, staff, and our deep network of community partners. By merging library, county, and community resources, the mobile library will serve as a mobile community resource center.

Wilson County Public Library

Reaching Outward Award: $100,000

Wilson County Public Library, Reaching Outward's goal is to bring library services to areas of need in the eastern portion of Wilson County, as well as to enhance outreach services County-wide through a new bookmobile. The proposed bookmobile will not only reduce costs for fuel and repairs, but will have the flexibility to provide services such as: access for the handicapped; easily rotated collections tailored to the specific audiences; programming for all ages in early literacy, STEAM, health and wellness, and more; classes to improve life skills and digital literacy; and Internet access through Library computers and/or WIFI inside and outside the vehicle.

Community Engagement

Durham County Public Library

Digital Navigators for Durham   Award: $19,242

In order to increase access to digital resources, the Digital Navigator Project will expand the library's appointment reservation system where librarians can connect patrons to the three resources demonstrated to close the digital divide: low cost/free devices, low cost/free internet and gateway digital literacy skills. These appointments will take place over the phone or as socially distanced sessions. This pilot will begin at the Stanford L. Warren Branch of the Durham County Library and will provide knowledgeable digital navigators who can guide people through acquiring basic technology and the skills to use it independently.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NC Digital Heritage Center   Award: $519,330

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 flexible and relevant services that meet the changing needs of North Carolina's cultural heritage institutions.

Statewide Programs

Statewide Programs 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.

Continuing Education will support and provide professional development opportunities for library staff in order to improve services and access to resources in libraries throughout North Carolina. 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 professional development opportunities specifically for the Continuing Education Consultant so that she can continue to design high-quality, useful, and desirable learning opportunities to meet the continuing education of public and academic library staff statewide.

Data-Driven Decisions will provide access to Gale Analytics and targeted training to a self-selected group of NC public libraries for 2 years to allow them to pair their Integrated Library System (ILS) data with deep demographic and market segmentation insights. State Library staff will work with public libraries and Gale Analytics to create custom dashboards that make data actionable. Libraries will receive training on how data can be used to analyze collections and programs for alignment with community needs and interests, target outreach services, and support equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. in addition to providing access to LibPAS, the software used to report Public Library Survey data.

The Five-Year Evaluation seeks to acquire the services of a contractor with expertise in assessment and programmatic evaluation, to carry out an evaluation of North Carolina's 2018-2022 LSTA Five Year Plan that is comprehensive and representative of all libraries eligible for this program.

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 an orientation 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, Government Heritage Library, and other North Carolina partner agencies; and to provide networking opportunities with other new directors. The orientation will be provided asynchronously consisting of a virtual component in the Fall 2021 and if travel is permitted, an in-person component in the Spring 2022.

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. Project activities will target the entire staff of the State Library of North Carolina; The Government and Heritage Library, The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library Development and Library Administration. Project outcomes will result in the target group

developing and maintaining essential skills and competencies, as well as broadening their knowledge of library and societal trends. These outcomes will strengthen the State Library of North Carolina's capability to better serve and engage with libraries and the public across North Carolina.

Youth Services will provide professional development and grant opportunities centered around services for youth and families which will result in improved programs and resources in North Carolina libraries. Both in-person and online continuing education opportunities will be explored to maximize impact. This year's opportunities will concentrate on services and programs for young children as teen services will be covered by an ongoing program.

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