

Facts about LSTA federal funding in North Carolina

The [State Library of North Carolina](#) (SLNC) receives an annual allotment of federal funding from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) through the [Grants to States](#) program authorized by Congress under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) ([20 U.S.C. § 9121](#)). The LSTA program and its predecessor programs have supported library services in the U.S. for over 50 years.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is LSTA?

LSTA stands for the Library Services & Technology Act ([20 U.S.C. § 9121](#)), which is a program authorized by Congress to support libraries through federal funding and includes authorization for the Grants to States program. IMLS administers the Grants to States program and distributes the funding to State Library Agencies, which in North Carolina is SLNC, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

How much LSTA funding does North Carolina receive?

North Carolina received \$5,085,881 in LSTA funds in 2023-24 and \$5,089,381 in 2024-25. The Grants to States program allocates a base amount of funds to each State Library Agency plus a supplemental amount based on the state's population. More information about allotments, including recent [allotment tables](#), can be found on IMLS's website.

How are LSTA funds used in North Carolina?

LSTA funds are used to provide statewide services managed by SLNC, to provide statewide services managed by partner organizations, and to fund local library projects through a competitive grant program. In 2023-24, organizations in 56 NC counties received funding for local projects through the competitive grant program. More information about counties and organizations that have recently received local grant awards can be found on the SLNC [website](#).

How might my local library be affected if there are changes to LSTA funding?

Changes in federal LSTA funding would likely result in a reduction or discontinuation of the programs and services provided through the LSTA competitive grant program for local libraries in North Carolina. Other local impacts depend on which statewide programs your library participates in. The following statewide programs could be affected by changes in federal funding:

- [NC Cardinal consortium](#): a shared library catalog and resource sharing
- Webhosting & event calendaring support
- Supplemental purchasing of e-books & e-audiobooks for youth
- Digitization of local history materials
- Digital skills training offered through NorthStar
- Professional development opportunities for library staff

Where can I find more information about my local library's funding?

General information about local public library funding sources may be found in the [Annual Statistical Report of North Carolina Libraries](#). For more detailed questions about funding sources and annual operating budgets, please contact your local library. Contact information may be found in the [library directory](#).

What is the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)?

From the IMLS website:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent grantmaking Agency and the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. IMLS was created with the passage of the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996, which was reauthorized on December 31, 2018. The Agency has statutory authority to award financial assistance, collect data, form strategic partnerships, and advise policymakers and other federal agencies on museum, library, and information services.

In addition to the Grants to States Program, IMLS also oversees several other grant programs for libraries and museums including the [National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#), [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#), [Save America's Treasures](#) and many others.