# NC Cardinal Library Consortium 🐦

NC Cardinal is a consortium of North Carolina public libraries that share an online catalog and integrated library system (ILS), and share library materials with other member libraries. NC Cardinal is managed by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

**54** member libraries* ┊ serving **44%** of NC residents ┊ across **66** counties

NC Cardinal services many counties with high need including: **82%** of Helene impacted counties, **75%** of designated **tier 1** counties, and **68%** of **tier 2** counties. **Membership is growing,** adding on average three library systems annually.

Municipal & special libraries:
1. Mauney Memorial Library
2. Farmville Public Library
3. George H. & Lauren E. Brown Library
4. Harold D. Cooley Library
5. Gibsonville Public Library
6. Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library
7. High Point Public Library
8. State Library of North Carolina

■ = joining in FY25

## NC Cardinal **expands access** to library materials & creates **cost-savings** for local governments

### What member libraries & residents get

- **Access to a shared library catalog with all member libraries**
  - Approximately **62% savings** on library catalog software
  - **No-cost support** for customized features and enhancements
- **Ability borrow library materials from any other member library free of charge**
  - Sharing library materials increases the libraries' **ability to invest** in other services such as **workforce development** workshops, **literacy programs**, and **digital skills** training.

8.1 million items are available to NC Cardinal members. Residents served by NC Cardinal libraries have access to **99% more materials** through resource sharing than would be available locally.

In 2024, **617k items** were **shared** between member libraries with a **value of nearly $13 million,** with an average value of $20.90 per item.

*The State Library of North Carolina & affiliated government libraries are also NC Cardinal members.

# NC Cardinal budget & potential federal funding impact

NC Cardinal is funded by member dues and federal funds received from the Institute of Museum & Library Service's Grants to States program, authorized by Congress under the Museum & Library Services Act. NC Cardinal operations and services could be greatly impacted by changes to federal funding. **If federal funding was eliminated, NC Cardinal has a projected shortfall of $245,680 in FY25 and $1,500,111 in FY26.**

| | Fiscal Year 2025 | | Fiscal Year 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | July - April | May - June | Projected |
| **Income** | | | |
| Federal Funds | $1,100,189 | $245,680 | $1,500,111 |
| Member Dues | $468,486 | – | $513,889 |
| Totals | **$1,568,675** | **$245,680** | **$2,014,000** |
| **Expenditures** | | | |
| Catalog software with cloud hosting | $240,903 | – | $242,003 |
| Member support | $18,188 | – | $31,160 |
| Resource Sharing | $901,990 | $187,200 | $1,235,233 |
| Salaries & Benefits | $388,395 | $77,679 | $505,604 |
| Totals | **$1,549,476** | **$264,879** | **$2,014,000** |

## 5 FTE support NC Cardinal operations across 66 counties

**Program Manager:** Provides strategic oversight of consortium operations including growth and member relations.

**Developer:** Executes high-level technical support for software customization & modifications.

**Trainer:** Designs training for member libraries, develops best practices & documentation.

**Support Lead:** Manages resolution of service tickets & leads communication with joining libraries.

**Project Manager:** Leads consortium enhancement projects, manages resource sharing operations, Student Access project, and oversees shared cataloging standards.

All team members participate in highly responsive customer support. Last year the team handled 4,259 support tickets, or approximately 16 per work day, in addition to other project work and responsibilities.