



CT State Library
Division of Library Development

CT State Library Ambassadors Information

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CT State Library Ambassadors



Within the 2024 CT State Library Strategic Framework our goal of centering community & partners included establishing a CT State Library Ambassadors Corps to engage in continuous dialogue; to serve as a reciprocal and collaborative entity; and to have minds with which to learn, create, and share inspired resources, services, and programs.

Ambassador Goals



In line with the State Library's Strategic Framework:

RAISING AWARENESS

- Increase awareness and discoverability of unique cultural offerings through targeted storytelling and communications.
- Empower Ambassadors with the tools and messaging to share the State Library's rich offerings, resources, services, and programs.
- Ambassador insights inform the imagining, creation and evaluation of new and existing projects, programs, and services



**Why are
we here?**

Background



Funding



Federal Agency and Terms



- **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**
 - An independent federal agency that supports libraries, archives, and museums in all 50 states and U.S. territories.
- **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)**
 - A section of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, that promotes access to information resources provided by all types of libraries.

CT State Library & Library Development



- **The CT State Library**

- A state agency that houses reference services, public records, and the official State archives.

- **Division of Library Development (DLD)**

- A division within the State Library that provides leadership, funding, education, and statewide services that enhance a local library's ability to deliver high-quality library service to their community.
- In 2024 DLD received **\$2,164,184** through the LSTA Grants to States program.

Information Recap



- **March 14, 2025-** IMLS was included in an Executive Order targeting it for dismantling.
- **April 1, 2025-** Along with CA and WA, CT was notified that IMLS was terminated the three states from the Grant to States program.
- **April 4, 2025-** CT Attorney General William Tong joined 20 other attorneys general in suing the federal administration.
 - Judge issued a temporary injunction in mid-May ruling in favor of the states
- **April 7, 2025-** ALA and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) filed a lawsuit.
 - Judge denied plaintiff's request for a preliminary injunction

Information Recap Cont.



- **April 8, 2025-** Two CT State Library competitive federal grants were also terminated.
 - Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program Grant and a National Leadership Grant.
 - **May 5, 2025-** CT State Library received notification from IMLS that it's FY2024 federal LSTA Grants to States grant for \$2.10 million was reinstated.
 - IMLS also told the State Library is planned to issue a FY 2025 LSTA award to CT.

Connecticut



- Funding from the Federal Government is being used to support programs that are primarily CT state statutory programs.
- While CT State federal funding was restored, the current federal budget proposes allocating only \$5.5 million for “sunsetting the agency” effective October 1, 2025.
- 13 of the DLD staff members that support these CT state statutory programs are federally funded.

Note about Federal Funding



Federal funds do not directly support public libraries who are funded locally by their municipalities; however, local impact would be felt by the loss of free statewide library services, programs, resources and support across all CT communities.

Federally Funded State Statutory Programs



Sec. 11-1a. Programs of state-wide library service

- The **CT Library for Accessible Books** serves over 5,000 patrons including 316 veterans who are unable to read regular print due to blindness, low vision, or a physical or reading disability.
- eGo, the **statewide ebook and audiobook program** provides access to 50,000 books with 43,395 checkouts across the state.
- The CT State Library provides support to Summer Reading programs. In the summer of 2024, CT libraries ran **8,827 programs and activities, with 229,470 kids, teens, and families participating**. Twelve libraires received \$21,210.98 in grant funding.

Federally Funded State Statutory Programs



EBSCO
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**WHAT LEARNING EXPRESS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SAVES the
STATE'S LIBRARIES and
MUNICIPALITIES**

- **CT State Library Cost: \$113,403**
- **Cost to Small CT Libraries (125): \$4,146**
- **Cost to Medium CT Libraries (37): \$6,479**
- **Cost to Large CT Libraries (7): \$10,624**

**TOTAL ANNUAL COST BENEFIT
TO LIBRARIES: \$718,398**



Federally Funded State Statutory Programs



WHAT the eGO CT eBOOK COLLECTION SAVES the STATE'S LIBRARIES and MUNICIPALITIES

- CT State Library eBook Collection: 21, 547 Items
- CT State Library Cost: \$318,746
- Total Cost for All Sites, If Paid Individually: \$1,472,596
- Average Cost Per Library: \$8,181

TOTAL ANNUAL COST BENEFIT TO LIBRARIES: \$1,153,791



38 state-funded databases, including hosting supported by IMLS-funded resources and staff as part of the Connecticut Digital Library (1,031 K12, Public Library, and Academic sites provided access to researchIT CT resources).

WHAT researchIT CT SAVES the STATE'S LIBRARIES and MUNICIPALITIES

- CSL Database Cost: \$1,339,638
- CSL Staff and Administrative Support: \$31,800
- Total Cost for All Sites, If Paid Individually: \$43,390,658
- Average Cost Per Library: \$42,117

TOTAL COST BENEFIT TO LIBRARIES: \$42,019,220

Federally Funded State Statutory Programs cont.



Sec 11-1 and Sec 11-23a states that the State Library Board shall maintain a library service center in Middlesex County to serve the public libraries and public schools in each of said areas.

- The **Middletown Library Service Center (MLSC)** is serving school and public libraries and in FY2024 circulated 21,327 items.
 - 509 school accounts
 - 210 public library accounts
 - 14 special library accounts
 - 34 academic library accounts
 - 28 other accounts (including pre-school & day care organizations)

Federally Funded State Statutory Programs cont.



WHERE DOES CT's FEDERAL LIBRARY FUNDING GO?

To books for school and community programs available to all CT libraries to borrow from MLSC.

"Last school year [we] wanted to do book clubs for one of [our] units, and the MLSC [helped] us find and use a variety of materials... The school was thankful for saving a good amount of money, the students loved their books, and [we] loved the whole process!"

- Windham Middle School

**MLSC COLLECTIONS
COST BENEFIT TO LIBRARIES:
\$1,759,524**



WHERE DOES CT's FEDERAL LIBRARY FUNDING GO?

To storytime puppets and props available to all CT libraries to borrow from MLSC.

"The puppets we borrow are a fun way to make storytimes a bit more interactive. Puppets help bring to life many of the rhymes we do.... and get our youngest readers talking and interacting each week."

- Portland Public Library

**MLSC SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
COST BENEFIT TO LIBRARIES:
\$1,305,986**



State Programs Federally Funded



- LSTA funds provided \$133,530 for 106 Professional Development webinars to 1,300 librarians **free of charge**.
- The E-Rate program provided funding for schools and libraries to improve broadband access saving 76 libraries \$497,221 in FY2024.
- DeliverIT CT delivered **1.5 million library items** to 215 public and academic libraries in FY2024.

State Programs Federally Funded



LSTA funds provided \$133,530 for **106** Professional Development webinars attended by **1,300** librarians and free of charge to libraries.

Professional Development is supported by 2 LSTA-supported staff.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COST BENEFIT TO LIBRARIES: \$265,000+**

Youth Leadership Summit Teen Services: "I loved it!!! It was informative and fun, and I learned a lot about the importance of libraries for teens. I also learned things that will help me to change how I approach teens that I am hoping will improve our relationships, and many of our staff have made a similar comment to me."

New "Lead Your Library" Professional Development Series: "I'm not sure if I can/will sign up for any of these, but I'm reaching out to applaud the CSL for offering them!"

The Quiet Approach to Managing and Leading Others: "Thank you for offering this program - Introverts are so often ignored or side-lined."



**WHAT deliverIT CT
SAVES the
STATE'S LIBRARIES
and
MUNICIPALITIES**

- Volume: 1,594,460 Books Delivered
- CT State Library Cost: \$792,618
- Cost to Mail Items: \$12,564,344.80
- Average Cost per Library: \$62,125.41

**TOTAL COST
BENEFIT TO
LIBRARIES:
\$11,771,726.80**



**WHAT requestIT CT
SAVES the
STATE'S LIBRARIES
and
MUNICIPALITIES**

- Participating Libraries: 132
- CT State Library Cost: \$474,054
- Average Cost per Library: \$3,591

**TOTAL COST
BENEFIT TO
LIBRARIES:
\$429,812.00**



State Programs Supported by Federally Funded DLD Staff



- **Sec. 11-24b.** State grants to principal public libraries; incentive grants.
- **Sec. 11-31b.** borrowIT CT (formerly known as Connecticard) program; state aid for services rendered to nonresidents



Competitive Federal Grant Programs



- As part of the **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program**, the IMLS awarded a two-year grant to the State Library in 2021 for \$310,000 to support **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School**. In 2023, IMLS awarded a supplemental two-year grant for \$285,000 to continue the project.
- Also in 2023, IMLS awarded the State Library with a **National Leadership Grants – Libraries** for \$249,948 in support of the **Regional Digital Navigator Sharing Plan**.

Federal Budget and IMLS Authorization



- The federal budget for FY2026 proposes allocating only \$5.5 million for “sunsetting” IMLS. If passed this budget would begin in October 2025.
- IMLS is due for congressional reauthorization, without authorization IMLS is essentially eliminated.
- IMLS could also be reauthorized and remain in federal statute without funding.

Where are we now?



- The recently passed biennial CT state budget bill for fiscal years **2026** and **2027** does not contain funds to support currently federally funded state statutory programs.
- As a state agency and state employees, CT State Library staff cannot advocate at the state level, we rely on our partners to speak on our behalf.
- Staff *has* been in regular communication with federal delegation providing them with information as we identify it.
- Our State Librarian, Deborah Schander has been working with the Governor's Federal Transition Team, the AG's office, and the Office of Policy Management.

How can you help?



- Communicate (tell the story) the rich, diverse and important statewide statutory programs, services and resources of the State Library
 - Local level
 - State level, public hearings
 - Partner and stakeholder outreach

What CSL can do?



- CSL will keep you informed
 - Information sessions
 - Training
 - Talking points
 - Engagement
 - Outreach opportunities

