

Pennsylvania Library Services and Technology Act Grants (LSTA)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Commonwealth Libraries awards LSTA grants to libraries to support projects that encourage workforce development, health, education, literacy, early learning, and access to resources that meet the information and learning needs of Pennsylvanians. The following reflects projects that were supported in 2013-2014.

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Library Company of Philadelphia/Philadelphia County, \$17,753. To digitize important collections of primary source material on African American history before the 20th century which depicts black life, community, work, art, and political and social activism in the early American period. The collection included a total of 875 African Americana graphics, including rare and valuable prints, photographs, maps, cartoons, and ephemera.

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation/Philadelphia County, \$22,800 The purpose of this project was to provide patrons of the Free Library of Philadelphia and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh with access to the JobScout tool that not only would support their job seeking needs, but also digital literacy needs.

Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation/Philadelphia County, \$30,000. The Free Library of Philadelphia developed a Maker Space Program centered on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). Near-peer Mentors and community experts guide children and teens in creating cross-disciplinary, interest-driven electronic art projects that use circuits, sensors, conductive thread, and more. Participants have built interest and knowledge in STEAM fields and gained key 21st century skills, such as problem solving, presentation, trans-literacy, and collaboration.

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cranberry Public Library/Butler County, \$18,000. To join the national Family Place model, as one of 107 participating Pennsylvania libraries. The hallmarks of the program are space dedicated to families with preschoolers, collections both for children and adults, trained staff and the Parent/Child Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for five week sessions at least twice a year. It brings together toddlers and their adults in an informal interactive setting where they can play and learn together. Each week a professional from local agencies, such as hospitals, speech clinics, county extension offices, schools and universities talk with parents about nutrition, child development, speech, hearing and developmental milestones.

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

York County Library System, \$50,000 York County Libraries conducted a case study of the Guthrie Memorial Library in Hanover, PA as it relates to fair share funding and porous borders with an emphasis on potential new models of funding available for this library and libraries across Pennsylvania. While the case study will focus on Guthrie Memorial Library of Hanover, the gathered data and research results will be applicable to other libraries throughout the Commonwealth that face similar issues. This research project addresses two looming questions for the state of public libraries: What is fair share funding and what is the true cost of operating a successful library? York County Libraries will make practical recommendations to Guthrie Memorial Library and other Commonwealth libraries that face issues related to fair share funding, porous borders and close quarters as we strive to sustain and grow library services.

York County Library System, \$5,000. To purchase basic literacy materials (books, music CDs, instruments, puppets, and flannel boards) to be distributed and travel on a biweekly basis between six of the 13 libraries. The Traveling Story Time program collection supported the improvement of children's basic literacy skills and decreased staff time in program preparation by ensuring that staff are equipped with the tools and curriculum necessary to deliver quality Story Times that reinforce PA Early Learning Standards.

5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Centre County Library & Historical Museum, \$5,000. To increase digital literacy in our community through training opportunities. It was designed to meet the growing demand for computer classes, one-on-one sessions and support for patrons just trying to keep up with the rapidly changing technological landscape.

Jefferson County Library System, \$5,000. The Jefferson County Library System sought to increase awareness on personal financial matters to residents throughout the county. Awareness was raised through new materials, programs, and publicity. Individuals in the county became aware of the concepts they need to know to prepare them for the future, help them get out of debt, and to make better financial decisions. This grant provided new financial materials for all six libraries that improved resources for residents to access. Programs were provided in all six libraries to promote the new resources and provide assistance in budgeting and planning for the future.

Mengle Memorial Library/Jefferson County, \$18,000. To join the national Family Place model, as one of 107 participating Pennsylvania libraries. The hallmarks of the program are space dedicated to families with preschoolers, collections both for children and adults, trained staff and the Parent/Child Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for five week sessions at least twice a year. It brings together toddlers and their adults in an informal interactive setting

where they can play and learn together. Each week a professional from local agencies, such as hospitals, speech clinics, county extension offices, schools and universities talk with parents about nutrition, child development, speech, hearing and developmental milestones.

Oil City Library/Venango County, \$10,000. The Venango Libraries will work cooperatively to identify different operating models that can be pursued in order to implement a new County Library System.

Schlow Centre Region Library/Centre County, \$5,000. To create content creation and creativity opportunities for elementary school-aged children in the Central PA District. The framework of the project was based upon the use of the LEGO® WeDo Robotics curriculum to implement the core concepts promoted by the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition.

Warren Library Association/Warren County, \$39,498 The libraries of the Seneca District, of which Warren Library Association is the District Center, are located in Northwest Pennsylvania. During the long winters they receive, on average, over 180 inches of snow per year. Due to the weather conditions, it is difficult for the librarians and staff to meet from late October into April. Being able to communicate on a regular basis would facilitate communications, coordination of services, corrections of service problems, improve communications, and offer more opportunities for staff training and development. Additionally, these units can be used by patrons for movies and gaming, by library boards for trustee development, and can provide conferencing and instructional capabilities for local public service organizations.

Warren Library Association/Warren County, \$5,800 The purpose of this project is to assist to information and educational resources, innovative programming, and professional development. Funds provided training to the Northwest Region.

6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chester Springs Library/Chester County, \$4,393. To enhance the children's area through the purchase of an Early Literacy Station (ELS). The station provided a new medium of educational enrichment for young patrons, keeping library services relevant for children growing up in the digital age, and giving all children an opportunity to engage in technology and learn new skills.

Downingtown Library & Treddfrin Library/Chester County, \$18,000 each. To join the national Family Place model as one of 107 participating Pennsylvania libraries. The hallmarks of the program are space dedicated to families with preschoolers, collections both for children and adults, trained staff and the Parent/Child Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for five week sessions at least twice a year. It brings together toddlers and their adults in an informal interactive setting where they can play and learn together. Each week a professional from local agencies, such as hospitals, speech clinics, county extension offices, schools and

universities talk with parents about nutrition, child development, speech, hearing and developmental milestones.

Easttown Library/Chester County, \$5,000. To purchase print and DVD collections to further information literacy in the community on such technology topics as computer hardware, software, web development, and manuals for devices (e.g., digital cameras and smartphones). This project also included information technology classes, with attention given to seniors and job seekers when purchasing items and planning programs.

Henrietta Hankin Branch Library/Chester County, \$5,000. To improve digital literacy and comfort with technology in our community. Funds were used to purchase touchscreen computers, tablets, accessories and signage. A “Smart Desk” was created to enable individual and group tutoring and training to take place in a non-intimidating environment.

Muhlenburg Community Library Association/Berks County, \$5,000. To expand its holdings of language learning materials in order to provide educational and economic opportunities for the residents of Berks County in partnership with the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks.

7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Delaware County Community College, \$5,000. To create a library Technology Toy Box to give individuals the opportunity to become familiar with portable technologies that are becoming increasingly important in accessing electronic resources in libraries for research, study, and class assignments. The project focused on low-income students, older students, and community members who typically are the least likely to have used these resources for library applications.

Garnet Valley School District/Delaware County, \$5,000. To update the library materials used by the Western Civilizations classes. PA Standards 8.4.W World History 1450-present, RWSL 1.8 Research, NETS, and AASL standards are all integrated into the project.

Middletown Free Library/Delaware County, \$29,964. To offer a “CreateSpace” in the library to offer hands-on experiences with science, technology, engineering, art & mathematics (STEAM). Program elements included an Explorer Club for school age children and a Young Makers Club for teens & tweens. They created projects and explored new ways of looking at problems facing the world. Small business owners also had the opportunity to learn & use cutting edge technology to their benefit.

Upper Dublin Public Library/Montgomery County, \$5,000. To improve efficiencies and patron checkout support through the purchase and implement a self-checkout station. This project supported three important library goals: (1) facilitate the check-out process, (2) improve customer service by maximizing the library's limited space and staff time, and (3) educate library users in self-checkout technology.

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bucks County Free Library, \$28,920. To enhance the skills of children and teens through the production of artistic products using Creation Stations. This project included the purchase of iMacs and LeapPads loaded with creativity software, scanners, video cameras, and pen tablets. Teen volunteers provided assistance in completing projects for other teens and children.

9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Altoona Area Public Library/Blair County, \$20,274. To develop Creative Altoonatives: Digital Multi-Media Creation Lab, an outlet for students to extend school instruction in graphic design and music composition, as well as use a Green Screen studio for blogging, filmmaking and presentations. The project also included the purchase of portable lab equipment to film and preserve local oral history and software for genealogy projects, as well as intergenerational instruction with O.W.L.S. (Older and Wiser Learners Series).

Carnegie Free Library/Fayette County, \$31,300. The purpose of this project was to create a Fayette county-wide strategic plan designed to serve as a blueprint in developing a consistent service model at each of the state-aided libraries and assistance with non-state-aided libraries and un-served areas in the county.

Tyrone-Snyder Public Library/Blair County, \$3,000. To purchase materials to update and expand the collection of picture books for children to be used in the library's annual series of 28 story hours.

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Wayne Library Authority/Wayne County, \$32,200. The purpose of this project, to merge ILS catalog and circ systems, is to make more items accessible to borrowers, to reduce the time it takes to deliver items to borrowers compared to ILL, to reduce duplication of effort when registering borrowers, and to reduce annual ILS licensing fees for both counties.

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bosler Memorial Library/Cumberland County, \$18,000. To join the national Family Place model, as one of 107 participating Pennsylvania libraries. The hallmarks of the program are space dedicated to families with preschoolers, collections both for children and adults, trained staff and the Parent/Child Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for five week sessions at least twice a year. It brings together toddlers and their adults in an informal interactive setting where they can play and learn together. Each week a professional from local agencies, such as hospitals, speech clinics, county extension offices, schools and universities talk with parents about nutrition, child development, speech, hearing and developmental milestones.

Central Columbia SD - High School Library, \$5,000. To enhance the library's collection through the addition of new materials aligned with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards in the area of Science, Technology, Environment and Ecology, as well as improvement of teacher/librarian collaboration.

Central Columbia SD - Middle School Library, 5,000. To upgrade and supplement the social studies print materials aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government, Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Economics, Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History, Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Geography, and Pennsylvania Core Curriculum Academic Standards for Reading in History and Social Studies.

12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cooper-Siegel Community Library/Allegheny County, \$5,000. To purchase portable technologies to lend fiction and non-fiction titles for all ages and offer workshops to teach patrons, volunteers and staff how to use the devices.

Hopewell Area SD – Junior High School Library/Beaver County, \$5,000. To purchase quality library resources that address the PA Academic Standards for Social Sciences in the areas of Social Sciences, Geography and History, and Biography sections of the library collection.

LaRoche College/Allegheny County, \$4,000. To purchase Kurzweil 3000 software for use by disabled, English as a Second Language, and Writers' Center student patrons so that they might enhance their academic success, reading, and writing skills.

New Castle Public Library/Lawrence County, \$16,806. The purpose of our digitization project was to make the oldest city directories owned by the New Castle Public Library and Lawrence County Historical Society more available and easier to use.

New Castle Public Library/Lawrence County, \$10,000. This project was designed to bring together the Mercer public libraries and community to identify new models that could be developed to provide better support and services to Mercer residents through libraries. A consultant will work with the public libraries and all stakeholders to develop several scenarios that can be used for consideration to improve library access and services in Mercer.

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Montgomery County Norristown Public Library, \$4,900. To provide staff training, redesign of programs and services to better serve the needs of Spanish speaking children and families who are a part of our community.

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County, \$30,000. To enhance library services to adult job seekers and job creators by providing them with the tools needed to thrive in a high-tech economy. The Lab offered patrons a computer media station for participatory learning; iMacs with high-end design software; and a 3D printer. JobTech Lab staff and partners trained participants through innovative workshops to teach them the skills needed to take part in and create the 21st century workforce.

Cooper-Siegel Community Library/Allegheny County, \$5,000. Purchase eReaders & Devices

15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dauphin County Library System/Dauphin County, \$5,000. Two programs for children ages 4 to 6 and their parents. "Ready for School, Here I Come" includes activities that help children be ready to begin school successfully. "We Get Together" includes activities that help children learn vital socialization skills, crucial for kindergarten success. In conjunction with these two programs, library materials were purchased directly related to these two areas of school success.

Kutztown Community Library/Berks County, \$5,000. To partner with Kutztown Area School District (KASD) to create a Required Reading collection for use by the students. Titles are now available in a variety of formats: eReaders, regular print, and large print and audio books for struggling readers. The program was promoted with school visits, signs and news releases. It expanded access to KCL resources and strengthen ties between KASD, KCL and the community.

Lehigh University/Northampton County, \$20,420. To digitize 387 original maps and drawings collected by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company and produced between 1826 and 1920.

Parkland Community Library/Lehigh County, \$5,000. To purchase up-to-date materials on children's health, parenting, and education and offer a workshop to supplement the newly created collection by pairing parents and their children with area health care providers in an informal setting.

16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bayard Taylor Library/Chester County, \$18,000. To join the national Family Place model, as one of 107 participating Pennsylvania libraries. The hallmarks of the program are space dedicated to families with preschoolers, collections both for children and adults, trained staff and the Parent/Child Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for five week sessions at least

twice a year. It brings together toddlers and their adults in an informal interactive setting where they can play and learn together. Each week a professional from local agencies, such as hospitals, speech clinics, county extension offices, schools and universities talk with parents about nutrition, child development, speech, hearing and developmental milestones.

Coatesville Area Public Library/Chester County, \$5,000. To create a learning computer classroom. The funds were used to purchase computers, monitors, and peripheral hardware. Basic computer skills training include very basic computer instruction, introduction to the Internet, instruction on how to acquire an email address, then introductory sessions on Microsoft Office software.

Lancaster Public Library/Lancaster County, \$30,000. To digitize over 80 years of available yearbooks from three Lancaster County high schools that provide insight into area genealogical information, teen culture and fashion, community connections and business.

17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Easton Area SD – F.A. March Elementary/Northampton County, \$5,000. To update their print and electronic resources in the area of Science specifically, the Natural Science (500s), to support the Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Standards and the elementary curriculum in the areas of magnets, energy, recycling, matter, electricity, biomes, animal tracks, landforms, astronomy, and animals.

Osterhout Free Library/Luzerne County, \$5,000. To purchase an updated microfilm reader/scanner/printer, in order to provide access to the historical records of Luzerne County that are currently available on 35mm microfilm.

GRANTS WITH STATEWIDE IMPACT

Cruise Into Kindergarten, \$50,960. To assist Pennsylvania public libraries with strengthening children's early learning through programs and services to preschool children and those who care and educate them. The project seeks to provide the following:

- Educating and training library staff to provide high quality early literacy experiences for families.
- Increase awareness of the importance of early learning in all communities in Pennsylvania.
- Collaborate with other state and local agencies involved with early learning.
- Promote the role of libraries in providing early learning support to early childhood educators.

Developing Data Tools, \$25,272. The purpose of this project is to collect public library statistical data and state aid information including plans for the use of state aid and the achievement of state standards by means of the public library annual report. The project

provides statistics and data about Pennsylvania libraries that can be used by libraries, the public, and other stakeholders as a comparative tool to analyze library services across the state and contribute to the provision of consistent library service to all library patrons.

Focus on School Library Leadership, \$56,740. Emerging Leaders Academy: The purpose of this first collaboration between the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program, building on the 2013 LSTA planning grant, is to design and carry out the one-year Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) for Pennsylvania School Librarians for a first cohort of 23 PA school librarians new to the profession who demonstrate leadership potential within their districts, regions, and PSLA. ELA adapted the SCORE model of mentorship developed by the Small Business Administration, by using six retired experienced librarians who are PSLA leaders as mentors and three outstanding practitioners as coaches, to mentor and coach the Emerging Leaders. The underlying foundation of ELA is school librarians “lead from the middle” because in the administrative structure of K-12 schools librarians have responsibilities but not authority and are peers of teachers.

Library Director’s Institute, \$133,571. This project relates to the statewide goals of developing effective leadership to support the ever-changing communities in Pennsylvania with outstanding library services. In this environment, many librarians are still taking on the role of Director with little or no preparation, learning their responsibilities on the job. This project supports the development of skilled and confident library Directors who will take a leadership role in their communities to position public libraries as relevant and vital contributors. The following objectives were set for this project:

- Assess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes Directors need
- Build individual developmental plans to support those needs
- Co-create a program with the Directors to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to become effective administrators
- Design a process for ongoing support face-to-face, distance, regional, electronic

One Book, Every Young Child, \$144,900. This program reinforces the need to do more than just read the book; discussing what comes next, turning the pages, exploring the cover, and creating an interactive experience prepares young children to become readers. The goal is to communicate to adults with children in their lives how the development of early literacy skills through quality interactive experiences with books and stories is critically important to a child’s success in learning to read. Early literacy skills are vital to school readiness and lifelong learning. Making parents and caregivers aware of how they can easily introduce and reinforce these skills every day with a great picture book is the goal of the program. LSTA funds supported 1.13 full-time equivalent staff positions, travel and supplies, as well as author visits, print materials for families and early childhood educators, and PR efforts.

Poverty Simulation, \$5,500. The State Library of Pennsylvania’s “Poverty Simulations” provided a structured setting for public library staff to experience and understand what it feels like to live on a daily basis in poverty and then to discuss what is needed to help these families survive and navigate their way through a complex and frustrating system to move forward with their lives. Funding for this project was spent for the training locations, simulation facilitators fees at both locations and a selection of reference/resource books to be sent to the District Libraries for use of the attendees working on future competitive grant applications

Summer Reading, \$238,735. To assist public libraries in providing a quality summer library program. Research has demonstrated the value attained by allowing children to read for pleasure. It discourages the “Summer Slide,” where school age children lose skills needed to learn. The grant funds provide statewide access to online registration tool, professional development opportunities for youth staff across the state. Every library receives promotional materials and summer reading manuals as well as block play materials and training to 50 libraries to institute Block Parties for early childhood classes and the public on a monthly basis. Libraries received materials such as a set of universal blocks, block storage unit, dolls, vehicles, animals, scarves, pictures of various buildings around the world and a two professional books to help librarians increase children’s literacy, math and communication skills.

Teen Reading Lounge, \$145,112. Background Teen Reading Lounge (TRL) is the Pennsylvania Humanities Council’s (PHC) award-winning (Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize, 2013) out-of-school time education program for teens. TRL is an interactive reading and discussion program for youth ages 12-18, featuring young adult literature chosen by participating teens, and hands-on experiences that bring the books to life. PHC designed the program along with library, education, arts and humanities experts to respond to the need for quality programming for teens that trains library staff on how to offer a humanities experience for youth. TRL is one of the few statewide endeavors to address shortfalls in library services to teens, and the only program to feature the humanities as a building block for successful teen programming that strengthens learning. TRL’s goals are to: 1) Engage teen audiences in out-of-school time learning in the humanities that build essential learning skills; and 2) increase the capacity of libraries to conduct public humanities programming for teen audiences. During the course of a project, teens participate in approximately 6-8 sessions over several months, read and discuss several popular books of their choice and take part in art and humanities projects.