

Public Library Services--Grants To State Library Agencies (CFDA No. 84.034)

I. Legislation

Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), Title I, as amended (20 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1957	\$2,050,000	1986	\$70,339,000
1960	7,500,000	1987	78,400,000
1965	25,000,000	1988	7,406,280
1970	29,750,000	1989	9,388,820
1975	49,155,000	1990	80,854,900
1980	62,500,000	1991	82,218,972
1981	62,500,000	1992	82,220,040
1982	60,000,000	1993	81,562,280
1983	60,000,000	1994	81,562,460
1984	65,000,000	1995	81,562,460
1985	73,500,000	1996	90,783,280

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

Title I (Public Library Services) of the Library Services and Construction Act provides formula grants to the states to help public libraries establish, expand, and improve library services. The statute allows funds to be expended for a variety of purposes to achieve this overarching goal, which may be subdivided into three more specific objectives:

1. To promote access to public libraries for special population groups through innovative service programs using new technologies;
2. To encourage access to library and information services for special population groups having difficulty accessing such services; and
3. To support innovative service strategies that enhance reading and technology skills for public library users.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

The statute allows specifically for funds to be used to provide library access for all persons who by reason of distance, residence, handicap, incarceration, or other disadvantage are unable to receive the benefits of public library services and to help public libraries to:

- Combat illiteracy and establish model literacy centers;
- Provide intergenerational programs matching older adult volunteers and children for after-school literacy and reading skills programs;
- Provide services to individuals with limited English-speaking proficiency and to the elderly;
- Provide mobile library services and programs to child-care providers or child-care centers;
- Serve as community information referral centers;
- Strengthen major urban resource libraries and metropolitan public libraries which serve as regional centers; and
- Strengthen the capacity of state library administrative agencies to meet these library and information needs.

State library administrative agencies provide support for approximately 1,900 public library service projects through subgrants to public libraries. These projects included the following:

1. Statewide summer reading programs;
2. Homework centers established to assist elementary and secondary school students after school hours;
3. The use of technology to provide access to information services for all citizens, including the blind and disabled;
4. The development of cooperative collection development policies at the State or local level;
5. Literacy programs for adults and school dropouts; and
6. Activities for the elderly, including large-print books, library services to retirement homes, bookmobiles, and books-by-mail services.

Strategic Initiatives

The major initiatives undertaken in FY 1995 were to streamline administrative processes and provide enhanced support services to state library administrative agencies and to encourage subgrants to provide increased public library access for underserved populations. Three main strategies were employed:

1. Implement improvements in the administration of the LSCA Title I by state library administrative agencies by simplifying reporting procedures for subgrant awards to local libraries serving targeted populations.
2. Provide improved technical assistance to state library administrative agencies by developing a database of information on subgrant projects that are intended to meet the needs of targeted populations. This data can be used when providing technical assistance to states and public libraries.
3. Analyze and report to state and public libraries and to professional associations on the evaluation of subgrant projects that successfully encourage reading and learning for targeted populations.

In FY 1995 the Department continued to work with state library administrative agencies to:

- Improve evaluation through training institutes for state directors and LSCA state coordinators;
- Develop an automated information management system to collect data from the state annual reports, especially to improve the data collection and analysis of underserved population groups;
- Foster more thorough long-range planning for statewide public library development through reviews of the LSCA long-range plan and annual update documents; and
- Establish better communications with state library administrative agencies through the use of the Internet.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Funds in FY 1996, according to state annual reports (V.1.), were allocated as follows:

- 43 percent to upgrade local public library services;
- 21 percent to strengthen state library administrative agencies for statewide public library improvements;
- 20 percent to improve services to targeted populations, such as the blind and disabled, the disadvantaged, the institutionalized, and the functionally illiterate; and
- 16 percent to provide for library institutional needs, such as major urban and metropolitan public libraries serving as regional resource centers.

IV. Planned Studies

None.

V. Sources of Information

1. State annual performance reports.
2. Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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