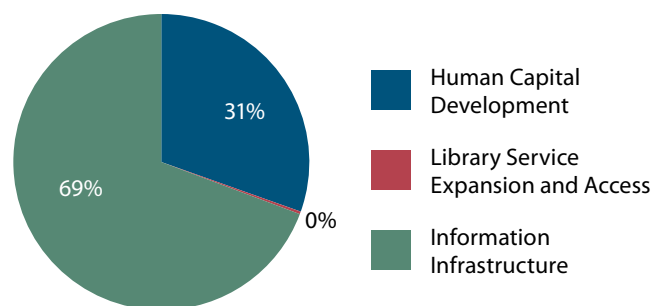


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: PUERTO RICO



Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006



This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Library and Information Services Program
Agency governance	Under the Department of Education
Population served in 2006	3,926,698
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$8,906,876
Chief Officer	Sandra Castro, Director, Library and Information Services Program, and Carlos Chardón, Secretary of Education
Web site	http://de.gobierno.pr

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Aura Rodriguez Ramos*

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

1. LSTA has had an enormous impact; it has helped us to make great progress in the development of all types of libraries. It has supported new insights in technology use; technology has become an integral part of library service.
2. LSTA has supported our major electronic library network, SABER. The main virtue of SABER is the automation of library services; many public and school libraries have joined.
3. LSTA funds have given libraries the opportunity to update collections in both printed and unprinted formats. Special populations are also served.
4. The education and training of public and school librarians: many school librarians are supported in getting their MLS.
5. There are also alliances among organizations and communities.

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Puerto Rico	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	2,096,742	\$2,235,820	\$2,277,522	\$2,296,792	\$8,906,876
Number of projects reported	82	60	62	29	233
Largest project amount	\$534,297	\$703,318	\$1,236,154	\$1,776,381	
Median project amount	\$14,995	\$15,000	\$15,002	\$15,500	

Delivery of Library Services:

“Fifty eight percent of the population is under poverty level. Most people do not have computers at home. Public and school libraries are the only means they have to handle or manage technology. LSTA dollars let us update and continue to develop technology.

“Our emphasis is on school and public libraries and also on library development. We assign funds through subgrants to all types of libraries.

“There are no systematic general efforts for the development of consortia, even though some efforts have been made between some types of libraries, such as academic and public libraries. For example, public libraries have BiBico: nine municipal libraries share databases. The major cooperation originates in Caguas, the city that coordinates the program. Academic libraries have COBIMET, a virtual library of universities.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. Continue working on consortia among all types of libraries.
2. Update technology.
3. Provide special training, especially in public libraries.
4. Enhance reading motivation.
5. Develop the virtual library.

* Aura Rodriguez Ramos was the Chief Officer at the time that the interviews were conducted.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- To increase the public’s use of information technology by increasing electronic capabilities of libraries, promoting technology in libraries and training librarians and the public to effectively use technology.
- Improve the academic performance of Puerto Rico’s public school students by encouraging the development of strong school libraries, through adequate materials, technology resources and the development of cultural, educational and motivational reading activities.
- Promotion and enhancement of targeted library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural,

socioeconomic backgrounds, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills.

- Improve quality of services performed by librarians who lack academic requirements by providing these personnel with the opportunities not only to prepare themselves for their job, but also to continue studying toward a master’s degree in library science—thus having more professionals who meet the necessary requirements to provide excellent library services.

Exemplary Project: Biblioteca Esc. Intermedia Tallaboa Alta

Project title	Integrando las Destrezas Bibliotecarias y de Información a través de la Tecnología
Library	Biblioteca Esc. Intermedia Tallaboa Alta
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$15,000
Total Cost FY06	\$15,000
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

The purpose of the project was to provide learning experiences that would allow students to be effective users of information. The school will develop activities to improve the academic performance of 239 junior high school students by integrating technology and information skills into their learning process. Emphasis was given to the enrichment of reading oral and writing skills. The funds were dedicated to the acquisition of educational materials, computer, printer, “Smart Board,” educational software, DVD, and renewal of Mandarin M3 Library Automation System.