

LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: COLORADO

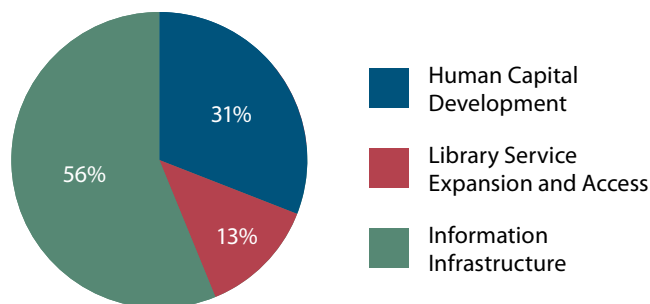
Colorado

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	Colorado State Library
Agency governance	Under the Colorado Department of Education
Population served in 2006	4,751,474
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$4,830,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$10,116,033
Chief Officer	Gene Hainer, State Library Director
Web site	www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006



Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Gene Hainer

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“The greatest impact has come when our LSTA Grants to States funds have been used as seed money to initiate large-scale projects. These include AskColorado, State Wide Interlibrary loan Fast Track (SWIFT), the Collaborative Digitization Program (CDP), the Power Library Program, and Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC). Building large-scale projects that had to exist by themselves beyond LSTA forced sustainable thinking and creative collaborations between libraries.”

Delivery of Library Services:

“State fiscal constraints forced consolidation of seven regionals to just one in 2004, the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) in Denver. Through collaboration with the State Library it promotes new ideas and information sharing, seeks cooperative purchasing agreements for libraries, manages the statewide courier, and provides consulting

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Colorado	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total Allotment	\$2,378,206	\$2,516,533	\$2,579,074	\$2,642,220	\$10,116,033
Number of projects reported	42	32	32	42	148
Largest project amount	\$280,709	\$254,253	\$312,179	\$415,363	
Median Project Amount	\$20,237	\$59,875	\$48,192	\$20,455	

that complements that provided by the State Library and others. LSTA helped sustain vital regional services during the transition until full state funding was achieved for CLIC.

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

- **State fiscal support.** Another looming fiscal slowdown or possible breakdown similar to 2002–3 threatens. Pending the outcome of several 2008 ballot initiatives and resolution of national financial crises, Colorado is likely to face another series of deficit years that will affect state-level policies and funding.
- **Local library support.** A fiscal downturn will affect local libraries. It will be increasingly hard for libraries (and schools) to get ballot issues passed. If the infrastructure becomes too unstable, those libraries that rely on city or county funding will see significant cuts; if the housing and taxation infrastructure doesn't recover quickly, districts that rely on property or ad valorem taxes will also see decreases, although data analysis of our libraries has shown these to be better able to weather such downturns better than non-district libraries.
- **Identifying the library mission.** Libraries talk about the need for change, but few can define “change to what” and fewer are making meaningful changes away from the books and information services model. If the library isn't about being a community resource beyond the printed word, its image will continue to deteriorate and it will become less critical to local community needs. We need LSTA dollars to demonstrate innovative service models.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Colorado residents will be able to access resources and services electronically through libraries to meet their information and learning needs.
- Colorado students and adult learners receive services from libraries and librarians that support educational achievement and lifelong learning.
- Colorado residents, people with disabilities, ethnic populations, institutional residents, and those under-

served by libraries receive services from Colorado libraries that meet their targeted needs.

- Colorado libraries cooperate to develop strategies and techniques that assure the sharing of resources to best meet the needs of Colorado residents.

Exemplary Project: Colorado State Library

Project title	Power Libraries
Library	Colorado State Library
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$56,204
Total Cost FY06	\$56,204
Program Category	Library Service Expansion and Access

The Power Libraries Program provides professional development to school librarians through training and mentoring. Established in 1998, the program seeks to establish statewide, standards-based library programs by increasing collaboration between teachers and librarians, and by integrating library work into the curriculum. Power Libraries develop leadership and expertise on the part of school librarians. The Power Libraries Program benefits school libraries by developing an awareness of the impact a good school library can have on student learning, developing a shared vision for school library improvement among administrators, teachers and library staff, establishing collegial relationships among mentor schools, and recognizing schools that show strong commitment to resources, library staffing, and standards-based educational practices. The Colorado Power Libraries Program has demonstrated again and again that peer-to-peer mentoring involving administrators, teachers, and library staff is a truly powerful way to encourage collaboration between school librarians and other educators.