Connecticut

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- **29%** Human Capital Development
- **18%** Library Service Expansion and Access
- **53%** Information Infrastructure
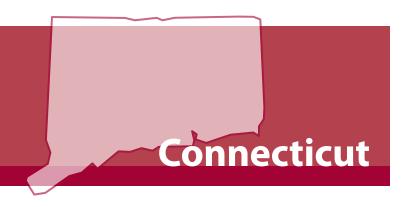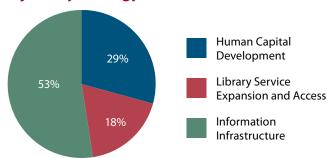
This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Connecticut State Library
Agency governance	Independent agency with an advisory council
Population served in 2006	3,487,896
FY 2006 total expenditures	$17,976,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$8,202,809
Chief Officer	Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian
Web site	www.cslib.org

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Kendall F. Wiggin

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

"The biggest impact has been the development of iCONN, Connecticut's Research Engine. We were able to demonstrate the value with federal grants; then we had something to show, to plug into the network. Training has also had a big impact; equipment, software, and staff keep changing. Federal funding has allowed us to keep special collections and to put new products out there for libraries to try. It has also helped us to sustain some things, for example, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH). LSTA lets us continue to fund projects that meet needs and funds to try innovative things."

Delivery of Library Services:

"Connecticut has no county or regional library structures. All libraries are local except for three regions for automation and one cooperative, which are funded with state money."

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Connecticut	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total Allotment	$1,905,106	$2,043,433	$2,100,240	$2,154,030	$8,202,809
Number of projects reported	17	42	24	37	120
Largest project amount	$597,428	$412,874	$503,467	$599,261	
Median Project Amount	$43,813	$13,645	$10,000	$13,400	

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

"The continued need to provide training is important. We will have to look at advocacy differently than in the past. We will have to look at reaching audiences in other languages beyond Spanish. The need seems to transcend city/town borders. We have significant numbers of Russian immigrants in at least three towns now.

"There's the whole digitization issue; we need money to do basic digitization and get stuff up on the Web. We need to let people know about libraries and services; PR efforts take staff and you have to hire outside people to do that; librarians aren't PR experts.

"We also need to do studies. How effectively are we reaching various communities? How do you keep libraries going when we know they're being used? Is there a place for open-source software? We've gone to federated searching. We're struggling with questions of open-source and federated searching. How do we move to the next level? There's a lot of pressure to share and economize, but it's hard and it's complicated and the public has high expectations."

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- All residents of Connecticut will have access to robust public access computing environments that feature reliable, high-quality library and information resources including statewide database programs, interlibrary loan, and delivery services.
- Enhance access to quality library services for persons with disabilities.
- Improve the quality of life of the target population by providing services and materials that help libraries address the literacy, citizenship, and English as a second language needs of patrons.
- Enhance literacy programs in libraries for children and their families.
- Enhance and improve library service to young adults.
- Enhance and improve library service to older adults.
- Enhance the ability of libraries to plan for and develop successful services that address the changing demographics of Connecticut's population.

- Expand the availability of information and educational resources of Connecticut's libraries through digitization.
- Build capacity of libraries to meet the needs of their communities, including helping them partner with public and private agencies and community-based organizations.

Exemplary Project: Connecticut Digital Library

Project title	iCONN
Library	Connecticut Digital Library
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$249,802
Total Cost FY06	$958,766
Program Category	Library Service Expansion and Access

iCONN—Connecticut's research engine (www.iconn.org)—allows users to search up to 32 subscription databases, including reQuest, the statewide library catalog, simultaneously. All Connecticut residents have access to this electronic library of essential information and learning resources. Public libraries, public and private colleges, public schools, and accredited private schools are eligible for IP-authenticated access, and individuals can access iCONN with their library barcode. iCONN is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The actual monetary value of all iCONN databases provided to local communities now exceeds $35 million per year.