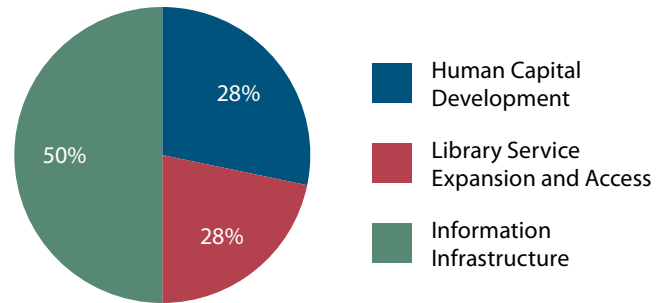


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: NEW HAMPSHIRE



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	State Library of New Hampshire
Agency governance	Under the Department of Cultural Resources
Population served in 2006	1,308,824
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$3,641,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$4,260,734
Chief Officer	Michael York, State Librarian
Web site	www.nh.gov/nhsl

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Michael York

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“We try to identify programs that will impact as many people and libraries as possible with the funds. I always talk about the impact of federal funds when I ask for state support from the governor and the legislature in our budgetary process. The legislature is aware of the LSTA funding and what it does. We run the statewide delivery service with LSTA funds, for example. Our use of LSTA allows us to help all NH public libraries, especially those with limited resources. We have always used LSTA to cover statewide, high-impact projects. Small grants to individual libraries just don't have the impact that the statewide grants do.”

Delivery of Library Services:

“New Hampshire has 234 communities and 234 public libraries, each with a board of trustees. We do have many voluntary cooperatives that were established to improve library services in defined geographic areas in our state.

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

New Hampshire	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	\$916,679	\$1,055,006	\$1,115,181	\$1,173,868	\$4,260,734
Number of projects reported	8	12	13	11	44
Largest project amount	\$287,965	\$307,117	\$304,495	\$320,590	
Median project amount	\$96,108	\$26,657	\$69,264	\$58,298	

These co-ops have worked very well. We have used our LSTA funds to help libraries offer services that they would find it difficult to offer without our assistance. We like to entice and enable with LSTA to get libraries into things like the downloadable audios. Our structure requires large statewide projects. For example, the State Library helped establish a consortium to provide access to downloadable audiobooks. The project was a State Library initiative that began in November 2005. Forty libraries joined initially. We used LSTA dollars to cover the hosting and set up costs. We also had some funds left from the Gates Foundation, from a technology grant, and received approval from Gates to offer grants to libraries to join the Downloadable Audiobooks Consortium. We used LSTA for seed money to purchase content for the consortium so the project would not be undercapitalized at the outset. Libraries pay an annual fee, based on their population, which is used to purchase content for the consortium. Now we have 125 libraries participating. The communities represented by this group of 125 have a combined population of 1.1 million people; the state has a total of 1.3 million people.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. The biggest is financing! We're dependent upon on LSTA. With no sales or income tax, the local libraries rely on the highly regressive property tax. We lack discretionary funds. In the past we were able to experiment more with LSTA funds. Experimentation is becoming a luxury as we rely more on LSTA funding to support key functions of the State Library.
2. Another issue is that lots of librarians are nearing retirement, many at the State Library as well as New Hampshire public library directors, and it will be hard to replace them because salaries have not kept pace with the rising cost of everything from fuel to housing.
3. Deferred maintenance on library buildings will be an expensive problem for municipalities. State-owned buildings are also having problems and will have serious problems in the future because of deferred maintenance. The State Library building is 110 years old, a beautiful building, in need of extensive care.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Utilize appropriate technology for statewide programs to improve access to information and ensure delivery of that information to the citizens of New Hampshire.
- Maintain and create partnerships to enhance outreach services to those who have difficulties or barriers in using libraries.
- Strengthen the capacity of New Hampshire library personnel to meet the technology needs of their patrons by providing training, education, and consulting to New Hampshire library personnel in order that New Hampshire citizens may improve their information-seeking knowledge, skills, and judgment.
- Implement a State Library preservation initiative that offers programs and services for preservation planning and disaster preparedness and recovery.

Exemplary Project: New Hampshire State Library

Project title	Kids, Books and the Arts
Library	New Hampshire State Library
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$5,000
Total Cost FY06	\$14,500
Program Category	Human Capital Development

Kids, Books and the Arts is a cooperative project of the New Hampshire State Library, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and CHILIS (the Children's Librarians of New Hampshire). The project helps New Hampshire public libraries provide quality arts experiences for the children in their communities and helps to promote summer reading. Each summer, grants are awarded to libraries with limited resources to bring selected artists to their communities for performances and workshops. A \$5,000 LSTA seed grant produced funding almost three fold. For an average cost of little more than \$3 per child, quality programming was brought to rural and urban communities to help inspire children to read through arts programming.