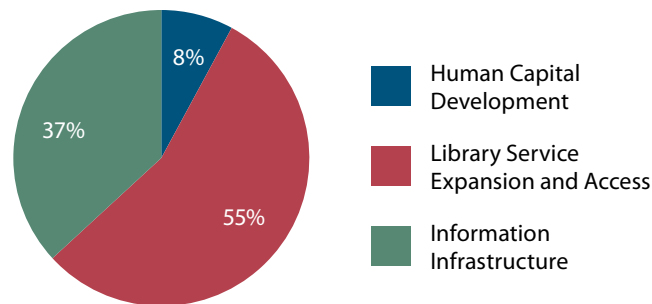


# LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: NEW MEXICO



## 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

<b>Agency name</b>	New Mexico State Library
<b>Agency governance</b>	Under the Department of Cultural Affairs
<b>Population served in 2006</b>	1,937,916
<b>FY 2006 total expenditures</b>	\$8,135,000
<b>Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006</b>	\$5,317,196
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Susan Oberlander, State Librarian
<b>Web site</b>	www.stlib.state.nm.us

## Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Susan Oberlander

### Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“The greatest impact is the ability to provide service to the whole state, to fill in the gaps with rural services and databases. About 500,000 people out of 2 million in New Mexico are underserved or without local library services.”

### Delivery of Library Services:

“New Mexico is a pretty poor state outside of Albuquerque. There are lots of small towns competing for limited resources. Libraries are supported with a gross receipts tax (tax on services). We’re concerned that police and fire will get the limited funds that are available. The cost of fuel is a big deal here because we’re so spread out.

“We have no separate entities, no country or regional systems. Individual towns want libraries, but we can’t afford them. There are too many and they’re too close together already. It’s the western mentality; there’s not much cooperation. So, we try to demonstrate with resource-

## Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

New Mexico	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
<b>Total allotment</b>	\$1,179,001	\$1,317,328	\$1,378,496	\$1,442,371	\$5,317,196
<b>Number of projects reported</b>	6	6	8	11	31
<b>Largest project amount</b>	\$805,730	\$919,076	\$1,012,419	\$784,786	
<b>Median project amount</b>	\$61,846	\$77,005	\$48,919	\$26,678	

sharing initiatives with self selected libraries; that's just starting to work. We will use LSTA funds to support these regional cooperatives. Right now the State Library staff is helping with open-source automation to get the cooperatives going. We will do grants to create incentives. Bookmobiles and books by mail are very appreciated, but they're expensive."

**Challenges in the Coming Five Years:**

1. Funding for libraries is a major challenge.
2. Another challenge is the synergy of coordinating services in New Mexico because there are no cooperative structures in place. We don't believe cooperatives or technology would save money, but we'd get more services for the same amount of money.
3. Technology and telecommunications issues in libraries are also challenging. The number of terminals has gone up as have the percents of users and percents of visits. But, it's an area where libraries don't have expertise. Technology keeps libraries relevant and growing, but it will require more training.

**Program Goals for 2008–2012**

- Establish benchmark assessments to improve and enhance shared statewide library information services and technology resources to meet the needs of New Mexico libraries, library customers, and special populations.
- Improve library service to rural, visually impaired, homebound, and underserved New Mexico residents by providing services tailored to address specific needs.
- Ensure that New Mexico's libraries are equitably positioned to have the fullest access to current and emerging information technologies and statewide subscription databases, and are able to make the most productive use of them for their communities.
- Improve reference service in New Mexico by providing interlibrary reference service to supplement rural libraries service and by training public and school library staff in effective reference skills.

**Exemplary Project: New Mexico State Library**

<b>Project title</b>	Rural Services Program
<b>Library</b>	New Mexico State Library
<b>LSTA Funds Expended FY06</b>	\$784,786
<b>Total Cost FY06</b>	\$1,156,852
<b>Program Category</b>	Library Service Expansion and Access, Information Infrastructure

The New Mexico State Library's Rural Services Program provides library services to rural and remote populations through four regional bookmobiles and the BooksbyMail program, which are administered by the State Library. Most bookmobile stops are at places so small and in areas so sparsely populated that there is no form of town government. There are seldom mechanisms for providing infrastructure such as water systems, sewer systems, or local police forces beyond the county sheriff or the state police. At best it is a remote possibility that library outlets supported by local resources will be established in these outlying areas of New Mexico. Books by Mail is a book delivery service offered to rural residents of New Mexico who do not live near an established library. The service is also available to individuals in New Mexico who are homebound and unable to visit a local library. In the reporting period the bookmobiles served 29 of New Mexico's 33 counties and the BooksbyMail program served all 33 counties.