

ARPA LSTA Funds for Maine Libraries

April 13, 2021

Statewide Meeting via Zoom



ARPA LSTA Grant to Maine

Amount: \$2,294,177

\$2 million base with \$294,177 added via a population adjustment

The Maine State Library, in accordance with its current LSTA Five Year Plan, would like to spend 75% of funds on state wide initiatives that would benefit all library types in Maine and 25% of funds for direct sub grant aid to public libraries



Proposed Statewide Initiatives

- Bendable Maine - \$600,000
- Formula Subgrants to Public Libraries - \$615,000
 - Grant Management Software and Part-time Subgrant Manager
- Maine InfoNet Initiative - \$500,000
- Continuance of CARES Act Statewide Initiatives - \$80,000
- Improve Geo Authentication to Online Resources - \$50,000
- Van Delivery - \$75,000

Field Test Projects

- Telehealth - \$30,000 – 40,000
- Library Annex/Kiosk - \$30,000



Bendable Maine

Bendable is a community-centered lifelong learning system created by the Drucker Institute, a nonprofit social enterprise based at Claremont Graduate University.

Maine residents of all ages and backgrounds will acquire new knowledge and skills through online courses as well as in-person learning opportunities.

Collaborators: Maine Department of Labor, University of Maine System, Maine employers, Adult Education and Maine Libraries and other stakeholders.

A lifelong learning system for all Maine citizens (employed, under-employed and unemployed).

Bendable Maine will *supplement*, not replace academic database resources in the Digital Maine Library.

MSL will use **\$600,000** to pay for initial costs of the platform and community input for program set up and is seeking other funds from state and philanthropic partners.



Visit Bendable in South Bend

<https://www.bendable.com/>

1. Maine as one learning community – content for all ages
2. Opportunity for libraries to use basic content and/or build local content
3. Some current Bendable content providers
 - Study.com – Micro-learning, test prep, college credit
 - Penn Foster – Degrees online
 - Sokanu - Career Advancement
 - Maine will build content that meets our needs



Formula Subgrants for Public Libraries

Total cost approx. \$615,000

- \$580,000 granted to 260 public libraries
- \$35,000 for software and part-time subgrant manager

Current formula proposal is a flat amount to every library and provide additional amounts based on population served and % of students in free/reduced lunch programs

Working on matching school lunch figures with libraries to arrive at the final amounts



Maine InfoNet Initiative

MSL reviewed the unfunded *LD 1149, Accelerating Libraries Access to Maine's Statewide Catalog (MaineCAT)* and proposes granting **\$500,000** to Maine InfoNet to bring additional libraries into the MaineCat Statewide Resource Sharing Environment. Maine's smallest and most rural libraries are currently underrepresented in MaineCat.

- Allow additional libraries (and their communities) to benefit from the statewide system, recover from the past pandemic ravaged year, upgrade and refresh their library systems and data, help support the libraries in their daily operations, help meet the needs of their patrons, and build resiliency for dealing with future disruptions.
- To accelerate the addition of more libraries into the Statewide System investment must be made to provide catalog systems that can directly connect to this central requesting resource (MaineCat). Currently 54 public libraries in Maine have direct patron requesting
- This initiative will target these libraries while also strengthening and reimagining existing partnerships and systems. Support for physical sharing of items as well as new modes of sharing digital resources will be addressed.



Continue LSTA CARES Act Funded Projects

- Zoom licenses
- Contemporary Archives (Omeka platform and coordinator funding)
- Beanstack Reading program for those to choose to continue in September 2021 for another 2 years

Total cost > \$80,000



Geolocation/Geo Authentication Service

- Work with Maine InfoNet to improve and/or expand access via geo services for the Digital Maine Library and/or Bendable
- Current service is through a database vendor and exploring a service not tied to a specific contracted database vendor may be prudent

\$50,000 estimate



Van Delivery

- Provide budget relief to the program
- Latest 2 budget cycles have not addressed the last and upcoming price increase.
- Allow funds for any new libraries for 1 free day and those that come into the statewide system via the Maine InfoNet initiative.



Field Test Projects for Future Statewide Implementation

Library Annex and/or Kiosks - \$30,000

- Field test 1-2 community kiosks to serve as a public library hotspot extensions with possibilities of providing other remote services in a rural and/or urban library community.
- Field test a library annex in a town with no library to provide scaled library services. Testing would determine costs and advantages and obstacles before pursuing a larger roll out.



Field Test Projects for Future Statewide Implementation

Telehealth Services in Libraries - \$30,000 - \$40,000

- Field test 2-4 more libraries with equipment and other technology to provide telehealth access in rural libraries for patrons with no highspeed access to facilitate video conference with primary care, specialists, and mental health professionals.
- Field test would determine best equipment, soundproof rooms, etc. Testing would determine costs and advantages and obstacles before pursuing a larger roll out.



Other ideas for remaining funds

Project Description	Comments/Notes
Tumblebooks	TumbleBookLibrary: 2 year subscription: \$42,984/yr Total \$85,968
Homework Helper	Online Homework Help for K-12 and parents
Tech Phone Help	Modeled on Arizona program- https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/free-tech-help
Scholarships for formal certificates/degrees	Move more library staff towards formal certificates, Associates/BA degrees at UMA
VR Petting Zoo	Virtual reality equipment to loan to libraries to try and test out
Websites via MSLN	Create a template that can be loaded onto the Shared MSLN Webserver for libraries without a website
Northstar Digital Literacy Assesments	A tool that may integrate well with Bendable - https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/assessment-info
Lynda Library or Udemy	Utilize for 2 years while transitioning to Bendable
Content for Download Library	One time infusion of funds

Discussion and Forthcoming Survey

- MSL seeks input and ideas from libraries regarding the fairest way to create the “formula funding” other than the flat funding with increases dependent on school lunch program data library service population.
- MSL seeks comment on percentage of funds for statewide versus formula subgrants.
- MSL will enter into discussions with Maine Department of Education, the University System, the Community College system and private colleges to discuss library needs and where their ARPA funds are being spent.
- MSL will release a survey seeking input on all items above as well as any new/additional ideas.



Emergency Connectivity Fund – What We Know

- Emergency Connectivity Fund = \$7.171 billion nationally
 - 2020 E-rate fund demand = \$2.91 billion
 - But ECF must cover several years
- Reimburse 100% of costs for equipment, advanced telecom, and internet services
 - No discount matrix
 - But costs “may not exceed an amount” the FCC deems reasonable
- ALA is seeking to lower the bar of participation for libraries
 - Retroactive reimbursements from July 2020
 - Lower or remove CIPA requirements, streamline E-rate process
 - Disburse funding through a formula with additional funding for rural / tribal / high-poverty community libraries



Emergency Connectivity Fund – What We Know

- Sites:
 - Libraries and schools can connect off-campus sites
 - (kiosks, households, mobile wifi, community partnerships)
- Services:
 - Advanced telecom. and information services
 - (Broadband and internet access, cellular data plans)
- Equipment:
 - Wi-fi hotspots, routers, end user devices
 - (laptops, tablets)



Emergency Connectivity Fund – How to Prepare

- Begin planning now for when the process opens
 - Any local procurement rules (if local vendor preferred, consult SP status)
 - Budgeting (or receipts) for purchases to be reimbursed
- Update or create your EPC (E-rate Productivity Center) account
 - MSLN libraries can update, non-MSLN libraries may need to start from scratch
 - Contact USAC's Client Service Bureau (1-888-203-8100)
 - Electronic banking information required for reimbursement via direct deposit
 - Will need DUNS and an FCC Registration Number.



Time for questions, comments, etc.

Questions:

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