
Library Services and Technology (LSTA) Grant Information and Guidelines 2024

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Services Act of 2018

Developed by
Division for Libraries and Technology



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent
Madison, Wisconsin

Division for Libraries and Technology
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

<https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/grants-funding/lsta>
LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov

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Introduction

The Museum and Library Services Act (including the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)) was signed into law on September 30, 1996. Fiscal year 1997 was a year of transition, marking the end of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) program and the beginning of the new LSTA program. Known originally as the Library Services Act, the LSTA program had been in existence in various forms and with various priorities since 1956. LSTA was most recently reauthorized in 2018.

The LSTA Grants to States program is administered at the federal level by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#). IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The [Institute's mission](#) is to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS administers its program according to the Office of Management and Budget’s based formula [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#). The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) manages and distributes the federal funding as the State Library Administrative Agency for Wisconsin.

LSTA Grant Timeline

Event	Date
Date of IMLS Award to the DPI.	April 18, 2024
Deadline to confirm collaboration as a consortium on LSTA grants.	February 9, 2024
Grant application and eligibility requirements released by the DPI’s Division for Libraries and Technology.	May 1, 2024
Applications are entered into WISEgrants (date subject to change based on setup of WISEgrants).	June 1, 2024
Notifications of Federal Grant Subaward sent to awardees.	June 30, 2024
Start of grant period. Earliest date expenditures may be charged back to grant.	July 1, 2024
Mid-project check-in.	January 13, 2025
End of grant period. Final day expenditures may be charged to grant.	June 30, 2025
Claims due to the DPI.	August 15, 2025
DPI subaward grand period end date.	September 30, 2025
Final project reporting due to the DPI.	December 15, 2025

Wisconsin LSTA Goals 2023-2027

Through the IMLS Grants to States program, the goals established for Wisconsin are based on the federal LSTA priorities and are described in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#). Below is a summary of the state's primary goals and objectives. These goals will be accomplished through the activities implemented by the DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology through statewide initiatives, managed projects and resources, or grant subaward projects. This information is also available as a flyer in [PDF format](#).

- **Wisconsin residents** have easy access to information, tools, resources, people, and spaces to make learning, exploration, and discovery possible for all individuals and communities statewide.
 - Support and enhance platforms, technologies, and practices necessary to improve access to library resources
 - Provide resources and supportive learning opportunities that empower learners of all levels to increase literacy skills of all types through training and education

- **Wisconsin library staff** are equipped with tools and support to serve the needs of their communities.
 - Support the recruitment and retention of library staff, including administrative, professional, and support roles, reflecting their diverse communities
 - Provide consulting, training, tools, and resources that increase access to, awareness of, and use of professional learning opportunities and statewide platforms and databases
 - Develop and increase library staff's access to, awareness of, and use of data, resources, and tools for library service and administrative decision-making and planning

- **Wisconsin libraries** cultivate connections and collaborations with other libraries, organizations, and stakeholder groups in order to engage community members, address equity challenges, maximize strengths, and implement impactful, scalable ideas.
 - Support and cultivate regional, statewide, and national collaborations and network development that drive innovation, development of shared services, professional support, and promotion of best practices
 - Increase the capacity of libraries to build local collaborations, foster inclusion, and engage their communities to understand local needs and priorities

Subaward Consultation

Consultation on grant proposals and the application process for federal grant subaward categories is available from the Division for Libraries and Technology staff upon request. For help, contact one of the DPI staff members listed below:

Arshad Iqbal
LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov
(608) 266-2853

General LSTA Questions, Funding, Eligibility,
Reporting

Ben Miller
Benjamin.Miller@dpi.wi.gov
(608) 224-6168

LSTA Budget and Grant Consultation

General Grant Requirements

Acknowledging IMLS for Project Funding

LSTA grant award subrecipients (including all public libraries and public library systems) are required to acknowledge IMLS as the funding agency. Recipients are acknowledging the source of federal dollars to their federal representatives and senators when they clearly demonstrate an IMLS logo (if possible) accompanied by text explaining the federal agency responsible for its funding.



The IMLS acknowledgement must be included on everything purchased and distributed using LSTA funding. All products and informational materials, regardless of format or method of distribution that are supported by an LSTA grant, including websites and databases created totally or in part with LSTA funding, must include a logo and an acknowledgement. Any promotional materials including flyers, web pages, bookmobiles, and signs must include an IMLS acknowledgement and IMLS logo where appropriate. More information is available on the [IMLS Acknowledgement Requirements page](#). For grant subrecipients unsure if IMLS logo should be included on an item purchased with LSTA funding, reach out to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov with a description of the item for further guidance.

LSTA Project Marketing

Including marketing costs within LSTA projects is encouraged as part of the grant project budgeting process. The marketing must be related specifically to the LSTA project and must not include marketing of general library services in order to be an [allowable cost](#). By including these costs in the project budget, it will help promote the LSTA project and new opportunities provided by the grant funding. Additional guidance from IMLS regarding [advertising, public relations, and promotional materials](#) is available.

The only exception to including marketing of general services is in the case of marketing to targeted populations such as underserved populations or persons having difficulty using a library. Examples of this would be promoting Spanish translation of resources or braille books at the library. Please reach out to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov with any questions regarding allowability of marketing as part of an LSTA project and to receive further guidance.

Website Development, Maintenance, and Hosting

When developing a website as part of a grant project, the grant recipient must determine who will maintain and host the website throughout the duration of the project. Likely the grant subrecipient should be the entity managing the website, though this is ultimately up to the grant subrecipient and should be discussed as part of project development. Any ongoing expenses for the website past the grant end date must be covered through local funds.

Staff time spent on website development, maintaining the website, or hosting the website are allowable expenses when directly related to the LSTA funded project. Remember website or promotional materials must include [IMLS acknowledgement](#) when developed using LSTA funding.

The DPI will not host a website for an LSTA grant funded project, as the DPI is unable to provide editing access to external parties. Therefore, it is best a project is hosted and edited by the grant recipient or a partner organization.

Internet-accessible Devices

The use of LSTA funds is restricted by the [Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#). CIPA requires libraries to block images that are obscene, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors on all library-owned, internet-connected computers, and to have an internet safety policy that has been approved at a public meeting. The filter can be turned off by an authorized library staff member for adult library users (17 and older) for lawful purposes. CIPA applies only to library-owned computers; it does not apply to library user-owned computers.

Libraries must be CIPA compliant to use LSTA funds to purchase internet-accessible devices such as computers, tablets, and smartphones. They must also be CIPA compliant to use LSTA funds for costs associated with accessing the internet *on library-owned computers*, such as hotspot data plans or internet service provider subscription costs.

LSTA funding may be used by libraries that are *not* CIPA compliant for projects that include the use or purchase of internet-accessible devices or internet service, as long as the devices and service are paid for with local funds. In addition, LSTA funding may be used by libraries that are not CIPA compliant to pay for internet service, such as hotspot data plans, as long as the service will be used exclusively with library user-owned computers.

Examples: Libraries that *are* CIPA compliant may use LSTA funds to purchase internet accessible devices or services directly associated with accessing the internet, including:

- Computers (laptops, desktops, Chromebooks, tablets) for checkout or for use in the library
- Smartboards

- Smart TVs
- Hotspots with data plans

Examples: Libraries that *are not* CIPA compliant may use LSTA funds to purchase IT equipment, including:

- Wireless access points and routers
- Cabling
- Cases and storage carts
- Computer peripherals (mice, monitors, keyboards)
- Meeting room peripherals like projectors, televisions (non-smart TVs), or speakers
- Hotspots without a data plan to be used with library-owned computers
- Hotspots with a data plan, as long as the plan will be used exclusively with library user-owned computers

Partnerships and Collaborations

IMLS defines a *partner* in the [State Program Report \(SPR\) Reporting System User Documentation – State Library Administrative Agency View](#) as, “A cooperating institution, designated through a formal agreement that contributes material resources (i.e., materials, funds, staff) to the activity.” IMLS provides the example of a statewide training, in which staff from several library systems attend is not considered a partnership between the DPI and the systems, but if the DPI worked with the University of Wisconsin–Madison, who agreed to provide their facilities to host the training, that would be considered a partnership. There are many opportunities to collaborate on LSTA projects, but not all collaborations are partnerships per the IMLS definition.

IMLS considers partnerships official when there is a formal agreement between the grant applicant and another institution and a contribution of material resources. An agreement may come in the form of a signed letter stating the intent of member librarians to offer a program to library users, financial support, or in-kind contribution of staff to teach a workshop or deliver a presentation. The formal agreement should include a clear understanding of the responsibilities expected from each institution.

Grants are offered to a single fiscal agent. Any project that includes the distribution of funds or shared activities with additional entities must have a formal partnership agreement. An [example of a written memorandum of understanding](#) is provided and can be modified to formalize a project partnership.

For fiscal relationships, allocating funds to member libraries requires greater documentation of accountability in the LSTA application and final evaluation. For example, library system staff, as grant administrators, need to provide information to member libraries about their responsibility in agreeing to accept funds. IMLS requires each recipient of funds to describe the impact of the federal funds on its community. Each library or organization receiving and expending LSTA money must report the use of the LSTA funds and the outcomes of the project to the library system as the original recipient of the grant award.

Grant File Retention Requirements

Records relating to any awarded LSTA 2024 grants must be retained by the grant subrecipient through January 2032. Records for LSTA 2024 grants would include the grant application, Notice of Federal Grant Subaward, reimbursement claims, receipts and invoices supporting the reimbursement claims, and grant evaluation reports. Access to these grant records must be made available to the DPI if requested. If an audit occurs during the fiscal year of LSTA activities, this may extend the records retention period for three years following the resolution of an audit. Refer to the [Records Retention Schedule](#) provided by IMLS for more information.

Federal Funding Exclusions List

In rare cases, a vendor, manufacturer, or service provider may be excluded from the ability to receive federal funding on grants. As LSTA is a federally funded program, any business listed on the federal exclusions list is not eligible to receive federal grants.

The federal exclusions list can be accessed on the [SAM.gov Exclusions page](#). To search for any business that may be on the exclusions list, enter the name of the business into the search box. If the business is listed, then they are excluded from receiving federal funding and cannot receive any of the grant funding for the LSTA grant. In this case, the grant subrecipient would need to find a different vendor or service provider to work with on the grant. If the organization is not listed, then the organization is not excluded from receiving federal funding and the grant subrecipient is free to use grant funding to purchase items or services in alignment with their LSTA grant application.

Eligible Entities

Eligible entities are Wisconsin public libraries legally established as a public library under Wis. Stat. § 43 and Wisconsin public library systems. A public library system may act as a fiscal agent for an eligible public library or libraries. Eligible entities may also apply as a consortium of libraries or library systems. Refer to the Allocation and Eligibility section of each LSTA project category to review eligible entities for each specific grant category.

What does it mean to be a fiscal agent on a grant?

A fiscal agent on an LSTA grant has several responsibilities as part of an LSTA grant. A fiscal agent's responsibilities include:

1. Submitting the application to apply for LSTA funds.
2. Maintaining invoices and submitting reimbursement claims. If part of a consortium, this may require coordinating the submittal of one reimbursement claim to the DPI.
3. Receiving checks for reimbursement claims.
4. Consolidating any information necessary to report on grant project activities. If part of a consortium, this may require coordinating the submittal of information to the DPI into one project report.

Formula grants provide an allocation to each library system which can then be pooled if one system decides to be the fiscal agent for a consortium of systems. In order for WISEgrants to be set up correctly, library systems must inform the DPI of the systems involved and fiscal agent as soon as possible prior to grant applications opening in WISEgrants.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Transition

Wisconsin public libraries and public library systems must have a unique entity identifier and be set up in the DPI's online aids banking system to receive funds.

To receive federal funds as a federal grant subrecipient, a library or system must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Libraries or systems that intend to receive federal grant subawards (i.e., LSTA grant funding) should use the System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) to obtain a UEI. To check library or system entity registration status, visit the [SAM.gov Status Tracker](#). A login with a SAM.gov account is required to view entity registration status.

Libraries and systems can request a UEI through SAM.gov without needing to complete a full entity registration process for the purposes of receiving an LSTA grant subaward. The SAM.gov website includes helpful resources on the [Getting Started with Registration](#) page, which includes step-by-step instructions and a list of materials and information needed. Additional information can be found on the [DPI Unique Entity ID \(SAM\) Transition](#) website.

DPI Aids Banking Setup

Any LSTA applicants that have not registered banking information with the DPI must do so before the DPI will issue a federal grant subaward or approve claims for reimbursement. This process may take several months, so the DPI recommends starting this process as soon as an agency decides to apply for an LSTA grant. Contact Jacqueline Darrow, Accountant, at Jacqueline.Darrow@dpi.wi.gov or call (608) 267-9134 for more information regarding DPI aids banking.

If a library is not set up to receive funds directly from the DPI, the library may apply as a participating member of a consortium, but it cannot be the fiscal agent for the consortium. Public library systems are encouraged to act as fiscal agents for LSTA funding, as all systems are already set up with DPI aids banking.

Project Budgeting and Expenses

Grant Period Time Frame

When planning out a budget and activities to be completed as part of the grant, it is important the expenses align with the performance period of the grant. All project expenses must be incurred within the grant period which runs July 1 through June 30 of the next year. This means that expenses must be billed and paid for within the grant period. Any salary expenses must be incurred between the start and end date of the grant and no time can be reimbursed past the grant end date.

Grant Extension Requests

A request for an extension of the grant performance period, up to September 30, may be submitted when there are extenuating circumstances that impact the ability to complete the grant project by the June 30 performance period deadline. Requests must be submitted in writing and emailed to LSTAcordination@dpi.wi.gov. Grant extension requirements are as follows:

- Requests must be submitted by June 30, 2024
- Requests must include:
 - A detailed explanation of why the extension is being requested.
 - A timeline of steps and actions that will be taken to complete the project within the grant extension period.

Allowable Costs

Ensuring costs charged back to a federal award are allowable is important in the planning and implementation of projects. Disregard of allowable costs might affect project status or out-of-pocket costs for a grantee.

LSTA allowable expenses must be directly related and necessary to carry out one or more of the goals and objectives identified in the [LSTA Five-Year State Plan](#). In addition, it must be reasonable and not specifically disallowed by the state or local laws, or regulations. The [DPI's Allowable Cost Checklist for Federal Funds](#) provides a list of questions to ask in determining if a cost is allowable. The DPI follows the Code of Federal Regulations [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards \(Title 2 Subtitle A Chapter II Part 200 Subpart E\)](#), which has more details regarding allowable costs.

Allowable cost examples for LSTA projects include, but are not limited to:

- Salaries, wages, fringe benefits (must fall within the grant period and cannot extend past the grant end date)
- Travel costs (mileage, airfare, lodging, meal expenses)
- Materials and supplies (specific attention should be given to purchases of internet-accessible devices)
- Consultant fees

- Supplies
- Food (if obtained in conjunction with training to achieve one of the project purposes. The cost must be reasonable and necessary to achieve project goals. A working lunch would be required where food was consumed while actively working on grant project activities. In most cases, use local funds for food expenses.)
- Performance costs (only if the performance is primarily for educational purposes)
- Marketing costs related to promoting services to underserved populations or LSTA project specific marketing (marketing the library in general is not an allowable cost)

Unallowable Costs

- Purchase of internet filtering software
- Marketing and public relations of general library services
- Meetings, conventions for non-LSTA grant activities
- Membership fees to organizations (i.e., American Library Association, Public Library Association, Wisconsin Library Association, Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association)
- Memorabilia or any kind of promotional items
- Gifts, souvenirs, t-shirts, temporary tattoos, toys, stickers, candy
- Parties, games, coloring books
- Incentives and motivators (i.e., rewards, prizes)
- Lobbying or advocacy activities (i.e., attempt to influence government decision-making)
- Construction expenditures (i.e., work involving the usual construction trades like carpentry, major electrical work, concrete pouring, tearing out walls, or major structural changes to the library space)
 - Library renovations including drive-thrus/walk-up windows
 - Solar panels/electric vehicle charging stations/LEED certified renovations
 - Ramps for accessibility upgrades
- General library maintenance expenses (carpet replacement, duct cleaning, etc.)

The DPI recommends libraries partner with local businesses and organizations to cover the cost of promotional materials.

Equipment Costs

Equipment requests for items that cost \$5,000 or more per-unit must be pre-approved by the DPI and by IMLS prior to grant subaward. The [LSTA Equipment Approval Request form](#) must be submitted along with the grant application to work through the IMLS equipment approval request process prior to grant subaward. If purchased items do not have a unit cost equal to or over \$5,000, then the equipment approval request form will not be necessary.

One form will need to be filled out for each piece of equipment over \$5,000 since each individual item will need to be approved by IMLS prior to funding. The unit cost does not include any item shipping/freight expenses, taxes (likely will not apply for tax-exempt organizations), or service/installation fees.

To complete the form, include the exact price of the equipment, the make/model or information on that specific equipment, and a detailed explanation of why the equipment is necessary and reasonable to complete the LSTA project. The description should be around two to four sentences and should justify the equipment purchase. Applicants have an option to include a quote, website link, brochure, or any other additional information as an attachment to the form to assist with equipment review.

When submitted, the form will send you an automatic email after form submission for the applicant to keep with grant records. The DPI will follow up with information from IMLS on the approval or denial of the equipment request once received by the DPI.

LSTA Grant Application Instructions

WISEgrants

All LSTA grants use [WISEgrants](#) to submit a grant application, do any necessary budget revisions during the grant period, and submit claims for grant reimbursement. All awarded subrecipients will receive training on use of WISEgrants if applicable and access to [technical assistance](#) documentation.

The WISEgrants application requires the applicant to:

- Fill in LSTA grant contacts for grant application/budgeting and grant claims;
- Write a short, 90–160-word project abstract describing the project purpose and intended outcome;
- Enter at least one line in the grant budget;
- Sign grant assurances by an agency authorizer; and
- Submit the completed application through WISEgrants.

Indirect Cost Rate

An indirect cost is an organization's incurred cost that cannot be readily isolated or identified with just one project or activity. These types of costs are often referred to as "overhead costs." Typical examples of indirect costs are general telephone service, postage, office supplies, office space expenses, and administrative or financial operations for an entire organization.

Indirect costs must be budgeted within the specific dollar amount awarded in the LSTA grant. The awarded agency cannot budget indirect costs in excess of the grant award amount.

Grant recipients can choose to budget indirect costs using one of the following methods:

- **Use a current indirect cost rate already negotiated with a federal agency; or use an indirect cost rate proposed to a federal agency but not yet approved.** Federally negotiated indirect cost rates are negotiated agreements between federal agencies and nonprofit organizations. If the applicant agency already has an existing negotiated indirect cost rate in effect with another federal agency, the agency may use this rate to calculate

total project costs and apply the rate in accordance with the terms of the negotiated agreement. A copy of the negotiation agreement will be required as a condition of a grant subaward. The DPI will only accept federally negotiated indirect cost rates that are current at the time awards are announced. The applicant agency must notify the DPI when using a federally negotiated indirect cost rate.

- **Use a de minimis rate not to exceed 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)** if the agency has never had a federally negotiated indirect cost rate and is not subject to other requirements (e.g., for states and local governments, and Native American tribes). MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward or subcontract. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of \$25,000. If the agency chooses to use this rate, the agency must exclude from the budget all indirect-cost-type items, such as general telephone service, postage, office supplies and office space expenses, and administrative or financial operations for the applicant's entire organization. If the agency is eligible and has never had a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, the agency may use this rate with no additional documentation required.
- **Not include any indirect costs** (allowing more of granted funds to be used toward actual project costs).

The following example of how to budget indirect costs is from the *DPI Local Educational Agency (LEA) Indirect Cost Plan July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2024*, available on the [School Financial Services team Indirect Cost Information page](#). This calculation is applicable to public libraries and public library systems in addition to LEAs.

$$\text{Sum } 100\% (1.0) + 10\% (\text{de minimis rate}) (0.1) = 1.1$$

$$\text{Grant Award Amount } \$10,000 / \text{Sum} + \text{Indirect (above) } 1.1 = \text{MTDC } \$9,090.91$$

Direct Cost	\$9,090.91		Direct Cost	\$9,090.91
Indirect Cost Rate	$\times \underline{\quad .1 \quad}$	Check →	Indirect Cost	$+ \underline{\quad \$909.09 \quad}$
Indirect Cost	\$909.09		Total Grant Award	\$10,000.00

Contact LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov to ask additional questions or request more information.

Application Review and Notification

The DPI reviews grant applications following the application deadline. Non-competitive categories are restricted to a specific agency or agencies, with funds distributed among the eligible projects. These projects are reviewed by Division for Libraries and Technology staff.

The State Superintendent reviews recommendations for funding from Division staff, and makes a final determination regarding all grant applications, both non-competitive and competitive. The DPI then notifies all applicants if projects will be funded. Funding is dependent on LSTA funding appropriation by the U.S. Congress.

If projects are selected for funding, grantees may be required to attend a virtual information session offered shortly after the grant notifications are issued.

Budget and Activity Changes

The DPI notifies grant subrecipients if the submitted budget within the application requires a change in WISEgrants before the federal grant subaward is issued. If the grant subaward does not include any special conditions, the budget is approved as stated in the original application. During the project performance period, changes to an approved grant budget must be submitted through WISEgrants and approved by the DPI prior to claiming reimbursement.

Claiming Reimbursement

Disbursement of grant funds is done on a reimbursement basis. This means the grant recipient makes purchases using local funds and then submits a claim for reimbursement through WISEgrants. After the claim has been reviewed by the DPI staff, the LSTA funds are directly deposited to a bank account established by the grantee following approval of the form by the DPI. The DPI recommends grant subrecipients submit claims at least quarterly during the grant period. Direct all questions regarding financial claims to the DPI's LSTA accountant, Jake Smith, at jake.smith@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 266-1773. Recipients must complete grant activities and encumber expenses by the end date on the notification of federal grant subaward. The grantee maintains all receipts for purchases.

Expending the Full Grant Award

The grant subrecipient should contact the DPI (via LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov) if it becomes evident the full grant subaward amount is not going to be expended by the end of the grant period. DPI staff may also be able to help strategize how to expend funds following the initial intent of the grant application. If a budget revision is needed, the grant applicant can submit a revised budget in WISEgrants.

Reporting Requirements

Mid-Project Check-in

Each LSTA grant project requires a mid-project check-in to ensure grant activities are in progress and provide an opportunity to discuss any issues or anticipated problems that arise during the grant period. If any issues come up during the grant period that may impact grant reimbursement or completion of grant activities, the DPI requests grant subrecipients inform DPI staff immediately.

A check-in email will be sent from a DPI staff member near the beginning of January requesting the information below from the grant subrecipient:

- A short update on progress in achieving project activities and an opportunity to share grant progress through DPI communications channels (i.e., a post on [Wisconsin Libraries for Everyone blog](#));
- LSTA reimbursement claim status (i.e., how much money has been expended to date, any anticipated changes that would impact total amount of money being reimbursed at end of grant with a specific focus on money that will not be expended by end of grant period);
- Any changes to the staff assigned to the project and updated contact information; and
- Any problems that have arisen in implementing the grant as well as requests for assistance from the DPI.

Final Project Reporting

Each recipient of LSTA funds must complete a [final report](#) on the project. A link to the reporting form for the grant will be provided to the subgrantee at the time of subaward as a Google Doc. Reports are due 45 days after the end date of the grant, which is August 15, 2024.

To submit the report, email a copy of the completed report to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov or send an email indicating the form has been completed at the provided Google Doc link. Questions on the reporting form can be emailed to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov.

Project Reporting Additional Materials

The DPI and IMLS are eager to see and share details regarding your projects to demonstrate the value of public libraries in their communities and to inform the public how their investment in public libraries is being utilized. Send additional materials providing context to the project or the project's outcome such as images, promotional materials, website links, feedback received, survey results, staff and library user stories about the project, press releases, and news articles to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov. If shared with the Division for Libraries and Technology, additional materials may be shared publicly (e.g., social media, newsletters) and with IMLS unless otherwise indicated. Be sure to include the library's name and location with any materials sent.

LSTA Grant Categories

As LSTA grant opportunities become available, the opportunities to apply will be messaged directly to eligible entities and listed below. More may be added throughout the course of a fiscal year as funds allow.

Core System Services Support

The Core System Services Support category of funds is available to systems experiencing funding challenges due to population sparsity and geography, which limits their ability to provide core system services at levels equitable to other systems. Systems serving libraries in lower-populated and less-resourced communities over larger geographic areas can experience higher costs to provide core services to member libraries. Individual systems may apply for the supplemental sparsity funds to assist with technology needs, including platforms and tools to support the use of library data, or apply the funds to collaborative projects. In addition, some or all of the sparsity funds may be applied to offset delivery costs for that system or its member libraries or system participation in the statewide backup project. These are the only exceptions where funds within this category may offset already established operating costs.

Funds may be requested up to a maximum amount per system determined by the formula outlined in the [2024 LSTA Core System Services Support spreadsheet](#).

Application

Apply for a Core System Services Support grant through [WISEgrants](#). Multiple system allocations can be combined to perform a collaborative project.

Eligible Entities and Distribution

The [2024 LSTA Core System Services Support spreadsheet](#) details the allocation amounts generated by each Wisconsin public library and system, the sums and averages by county, and the sums and averages by system. The table below outlines the total LSTA aid amounts for each system.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library Systems	Total Allocation
Bridges Library System	\$3,000.00
Kenosha County Library System	\$3,000.00
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	\$12,269.00
Milwaukee County Federated Library System	\$3,000.00
Monarch Library System	\$3,000.00
Nicolet Federated Library System	\$19,447.00

Outagamie Waupaca Library System	\$5,180.00
Prairie Lakes Library System	\$3,000.00
South Central Library System	\$8,225.00
Southwest Wisconsin Library System	\$26,428.00
Winding Rivers Library System	\$23,447.00
Winnefox Library System	\$12,976.00
Wisconsin Valley Library Service	\$77,028.00
Total	\$200,000.00

General Stipulations for the Core System Services Support Grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grants shall improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources
- Funds may be used to underwrite startup costs for new services that can subsequently be sustained without the continued use of LSTA funding
- Any system receiving funds will be required to complete mid-project and end-of-project reporting
- Funds shall **not** be used for licensing products or platforms in categories already provided by the DPI
- Funds shall **not** be used for ongoing operational costs (other than the noted exceptions of delivery and the statewide backup project), or already established system or member Overdrive or Advantage accounts
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

Integrated Library System (ILS) Migration to Shared ILS Consortium

As part of the 2023-2027 Five Year LSTA Plan for Wisconsin, the DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology will provide initial setup costs for libraries operating a standalone integrated library system (ILS) to join an existing public library system shared ILS consortium in the state of Wisconsin. Funds may be used to cover migration preparation and implementation costs of joining a shared ILS consortium that shall be subsequently sustained by the local library.

Application

A [pre-application project plan](#) must be submitted to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov by **May 19, 2024**. Please either send an email with the document link confirming the pre-application has been completed or submit the pre-application file as an attachment to an email.

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the ILS Migration to Shared ILS Consortium grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

Eligible entities are Wisconsin public libraries that are:

- legally established as a public library under Wis. Stats. Chapter 43;
- members of a public library system; and
- not currently a member of any shared ILS consortium.

A public library system must act as the fiscal agent for a public library or libraries that meet the above criteria.

Eligible Applicants	Total Allocation
South Central Library System	\$25,000.00
Total	\$25,000.00

General Stipulations for the ILS Migration to Shared ILS Consortium Grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025
- Applicants are responsible for securing all necessary local approvals prior to submitting application, such as board approval for a library joining a shared ILS
- The shared ILS consortium must be willing and able to perform the necessary preparatory work to migrate the library between the date the library receives the Notification of Federal Grant Subaward and June 30, 2025

Cooperative Cataloging Project

This grant supports the continued activities of the Cooperative Cataloging project through a collaboration of Wisconsin public library systems. To date, activities of the project include forming a statewide bibliographic standards workgroup, holding Marc Edit records training, and starting development of a shared repository for community of practice sharing among systems. Project activities that will be executed during this grant period will continue to be focused on those having the most impact on making progress toward these goals and objectives:

- Creating consistent data, ensuring all public library catalog users across the state have a more unified experience, accurately finding the titles they seek
- Providing authority vendor services to library systems without an existing relationship
- Preparing for the potential future of a shared, state-wide discovery layer
- Unifying technical services processes with a baseline of best practices and/or standards
- Moving bibliographic records towards shared/similar vocabularies
- Improving discovery of resources via WISCAT

Application

A [pre-application](#) for each distinct project undertaken in this category must be submitted to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov prior to updating the current budget in WISEgrants. Please either send an email with the document link confirming the pre-application has been completed or submit the pre-application file as an attachment to an email.

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the Cooperative Cataloging Project grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The Northern Waters Library Service is the only eligible entity to apply for the Cooperative Cataloging Project grant.

Eligible Applicants	Total Allocation
Northern Waters Library Service	Up to \$50,000.00
Total	Up to \$50,000.00

General Stipulations for the Cooperative Cataloging Project Grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

ILS Consortia Merger Implementation

The funds for the ILS Consortia Merger Implementation grant will provide financial support for the Northern Waters and Wisconsin Valley Library Services to implement a merger of their ILS shared catalogs and service support to participating member libraries. The intention of the grant is to facilitate improved discovery and fulfillment of resources through access to a merged ILS shared catalog by residents throughout the two systems. Funds may be used to cover migration preparation and implementation costs to merge the shared catalogs of the ILS consortia, of which the newly merged ILS consortium and shared catalog shall be subsequently sustained by the two systems and member libraries.

Application

A [pre-application project plan](#) must be submitted to LSTAgrants@dpi.wi.gov by **May 19, 2024**. Please either send an email with the document link confirming the pre-application has been completed or submit the pre-application file as an attachment to an email.

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the ILS Consortia Merger Implementation grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service is the only eligible entity to apply for the ILS Consortia Merger Implementation grant.

Eligible Applicants	Total Allocation
Wisconsin Valley Library Service	\$75,000.00
Total	\$75,000.00

General Stipulations for the ILS Consortia Merger Implementation Grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs, including but not limited to:
 - Bibliographic and patron records database clean up necessary for migration, including costs to remove records from current ILS platforms
 - Merging onto one bibliographic utility
 - Cataloging utility and authority utility expenses
 - Discovery layer transitions
 - New ILS implementation costs, including post-migration legacy ILS access as needed
 - Contract LTE staff person for assistance with migration specific activities
 - Communicating the availability of the new ILS to the public

- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025
- Grant funds will only be released to applicants after all merger agreements are approved by the appropriate ILS consortia and system boards
- The systems and member libraries must be willing and able to perform ILS consortia migration merger activities that will be funded with this grant within the performance period of the grant, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

Professional Learning Support

The funds for the Professional Learning Support grant will provide financial support to expand access and promote equity in professional learning opportunities for public library and system staff. The grant is intended to help reduce barriers to professional learning among staff at all libraries in Wisconsin. Professional learning can take many forms and include virtual or in-person conference or training attendance, in-service staff trainings, or offsetting staff time. Funds may be requested up to a maximum amount per system determined by the formula outlined in the [2024 Professional Learning Support Distribution Spreadsheet](#). Library systems are required to complete mid-project and end-of-project reporting.

In addition to regional projects, the following regular statewide professional learning opportunities will be presented: Tech Days, Wisconsin Winter Web Conference, Wisconsin Trustee Training Days, Spring Webinar Series, and Annual Training Orientation for New Library Directors. Professional learning will also be offered statewide on the topics of Wisconsin Libraries Talk about Race, Wisconsin Building and Spaces, and HR for Library Leaders.

Application

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the Professional Learning Support grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The [2024 Professional Learning Support Distribution Spreadsheet](#) details the allocation amounts generated by each Wisconsin public library and system, the sums and averages by county, and the sums and averages by system. The table below outlines the total LSTA aid amounts for each system including any additional funding for learning opportunities.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library Systems	Formula Allocation	Additional Funding	Total Allocation
IFLS Library System	\$24,158.00		\$24,158.00
Kenosha County Library System	\$3,850.00		\$3,850.00
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	\$2,473.00		\$2,473.00
Nicolet Federated Library System	\$22,570.00		\$22,570.00
Northern Waters Library Service	\$14,064.00		\$14,064.00
Outagamie Waupaca Library System	\$8,399.00		\$8,399.00
Prairie Lakes Library System	\$68,382.00	\$17,000.00	\$85,382.00
South Central Library System	\$28,235.00	\$40,000.00	\$68,235.00
Southwest Wisconsin Library System	\$14,988.00		\$14,988.00

Winding Rivers Library System	\$21,586.00		\$21,586.00
Winnefox Library System	\$16,586.00	\$7,000.00	\$23,586.00
Wisconsin Valley Library Service	\$20,709.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,709.00
Total	\$246,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$315,000.00

General Stipulations for the Professional Learning Support Grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grants shall improve the library workforce
- Grants shall provide financial support for library workers to engage in professional learning activities including virtual or in-person conference or training attendance, in-service staff trainings, or offsetting staff time
- Applicants encouraged to include costs for marketing the LSTA project and administrative overhead to carry out the project
- Applicants are required to separate out expenses related to travel, attendance or registration fees, and personnel expenses in grant budget
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

Collaborative Data Projects

The Collaborative Data Projects grant category supports collaborative efforts among public library systems to research, plan, and implement technical solutions that provide equitable access to library-centric data and data tools. 2024 LSTA funds are being allocated to support a pilot of a statewide data dashboard by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) that will provide all Wisconsin public library staff access to a data dashboard tool comprised of data from annual library reports. The goals of the pilot must include demonstrating data use case scenarios for libraries work through using the dashboard to provide feedback regarding library needs, uses, and the value of a data dashboard tool.

LSTA funds for this category can be used to support expenses to develop and implement the WPLC data dashboard pilot, including project management fees, dashboard preparation costs for pilot launch, and dashboard access fees for all public libraries in Wisconsin during the pilot.

Application

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the Collaborative Data Projects grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service is the only eligible entity to apply for the Collaborative Data Projects grant.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library System	Total Allocation
Wisconsin Valley Library Service	\$20,000.00
Total	\$20,000.00

General Stipulations for the Library Research Studies grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve the library workforce
- Applicant encouraged to include costs for marketing the LSTA project and administrative overhead to carry out the project
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

WebJunction

WebJunction is a professional learning platform where public library staff build the knowledge, skills, and support they need to carry out library operations. The WebJunction grant provides funding to ensure new content and trainings are freely available to libraries and library workers statewide.

Application

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the WebJunction grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The IFLS Library System is the only eligible entity to apply for the WebJunction grant.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library System	Total Allocation
IFLS Library System	\$12,986.00
Total	\$12,986.00

General Stipulations for the WebJunction grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve the library workforce
- Applicant encouraged to include costs for marketing the LSTA project and administrative overhead to carry out the project
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

Backup and Digitized Materials Archives Collaboration Project

Currently, seven public library systems are participating in the statewide Backup and Digitized Materials Archive Collaboration project with an additional three library systems actively pursuing participation. The grant will support host site support costs in the Northern Data Center (Eau Claire) and the Southern Data Center (Madison). These costs pay for necessary hardware to maintain the project.

Application

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the Backup and Digitized Materials Archives Collaboration Project grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The South Central Library System is the only eligible entity to apply for the Backup and Digitized Materials Archives Collaboration Project grant.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library System	Total Allocation
South Central Library System	\$12,000.00
Total	\$12,000.00

General Stipulations for the Backup and Digitized Materials Archives Collaboration Project grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources
- Applicant encouraged to include costs for marketing the LSTA project and administrative overhead to carry out the project
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025

Teen Internship Pilot Program

The Teen Internship Pilot Program will fund local library internships for local high school juniors and seniors, approximately 16 to 19 years old, to be completed between July 1st, 2024, and August 31st, 2024. These paid internships will provide mentoring. Teen interns will increase their skills by working on a connected learning project and identify how their interest and skills match that work. DPI staff will work in collaboration with program partners, including the system managing the grant subaward, to select five libraries to participate in the program through an open application process. Libraries selected to participate will be encouraged to think broadly about diversity and inclusivity and recruit interns who reflect the diversity of the community being served. Library mentors will develop leadership, coaching, and communication skills.

Application

Use [WISEgrants](#) to apply for the Teen Internship Pilot Program grant.

Allocations and Eligibility

The Winnefox Library System is the only eligible entity to apply for the Teen Internship Pilot Program grant.

Eligible Wisconsin Public Library System	Total Allocation
Winnefox Library System	\$18,000.00
Total	\$18,000.00

General Stipulations for the Teen Internship Pilot Program grant

- Grant must tie back to at least one of the goals in the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2023-2027](#)
- Grant shall improve the library workforce
- Applicant encouraged to include costs for marketing the LSTA project and administrative overhead to carry out the project
- Grant budgets shall follow the outlined [allowable](#) and [unallowable](#) costs
- All positions must meet nondiscrimination laws and minor worker laws
- Applicants shall expend subaward funds by June 30, 2025
- Applicants shall submit the final report and claim for reimbursement by August 15, 2025