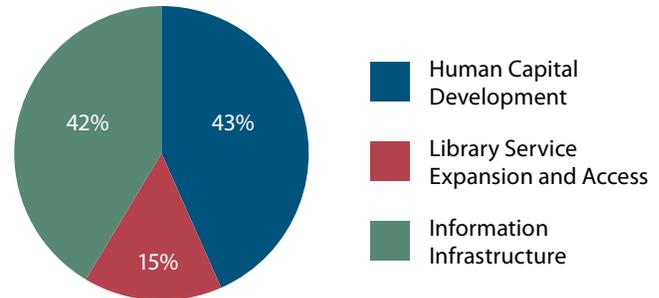


# LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: MASSACHUSETTS



## 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>	Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
<b>Agency governance</b>	An independent agency
<b>Population served in 2006</b>	6,443,424
<b>FY 2006 total expenditures</b>	\$49,057,000
<b>Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006</b>	\$13,505,751
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Robert C. Maier, Director, Board of Library Commissioners
<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://mblc.state.ma.us">http://mblc.state.ma.us</a>

## Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Robert C. Maier

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

“The greatest impact was survival in the sense that LSTA really helped when state and local funds were dramatically reduced. LSTA has supported small libraries joining automated networks, database licensing, and regional delivery. We’ve also funded public-awareness efforts to promote LSTA-funded projects and services. LSTA has given libraries an opportunity to access funds for local projects at a time when local funds dried up.

“We have used LSTA to help libraries engage in community building—‘On the Same Page’ (one book–one community) discussion groups, for example. These are wide-ranging discussions that bring community members together. There have also been Conversation Circles for non English speaking people to let people practice their English; the literacy programs are English in a more formal setting. The Equal Access program offered LSTA minigrants to supplement Libraries for the Future support.

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

Massachusetts	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
<b>Total allotment</b>	\$3,247,148	\$3,385,475	\$3,423,733	\$3,449,395	\$13,505,751
<b>Number of projects reported</b>	121	93	91	99	404
<b>Largest project amount</b>	\$393,360	\$540,540	\$714,634	\$658,384	
<b>Median project amount</b>	\$9,950	\$9,344	\$10,000	\$10,000	

These have all helped libraries look out into the community instead of inward on themselves. LSTA gives us money to do those things that libraries couldn't do. We couldn't do without LSTA."

**Delivery of Library Services:**

"We have regionals that are now multi-type and are entirely state funded. Automated networks are partially state funded with the rest of their support coming from their members. The state budget has lines for regionals, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and state aid to public libraries. Massachusetts is a high interlibrary loan state; that's basically supported through state funds, so these things don't consume LSTA funds."

**Challenges in the Coming Five Years:**

1. Making the case for public libraries as an essential service funded locally: we have more than our share of municipal budgets that are under great stress and public libraries often take the brunt of cuts.
2. Finding the funds to offer electronic services statewide: we are working toward our overall goal of providing equity of access to library services statewide.
3. Promoting the services that libraries do offer: it is so frustrating to listen to people say they wish libraries provided a service that libraries actually do provide. People are just unaware of what libraries do. This is different from advocacy. People want to be told what libraries have.

**Program Goals for 2008–2012**

- Massachusetts residents, no matter where they live, will find and obtain the resources they need using an improved technological infrastructure that links all types of libraries and provides and coordinates shared electronic resources. Residents will have access to digitized images of unique and valuable resources, improved access tools, and properly preserved physical and electronic materials.
- Library users will have access to effective library and

information services provided by well-trained and supported library staff.

- All Massachusetts residents will be better prepared to meet life's challenges at school, in the workplace, and in their daily lives through access to programs and training that foster their development of information literacy skills and communication technology skills.
- Massachusetts children and young adults will have access to public and school libraries that are active partners in providing resources and learning opportunities that foster literacy from birth through the teen years.
- All Massachusetts residents will have equal access to library information, collections, and services regardless of their geographic location, cultural or socioeconomic background, and regardless of disability or limited functional literacy skills.
- Massachusetts residents, regardless of age, will have access to lifelong learning resources and programs through their local libraries.

**Exemplary Project: Palmer Public Library**

<b>Project title</b>	Equal Access/Youth Access
<b>Library</b>	Palmer Public Library
<b>LSTA Funds Expended FY06</b>	\$5,000
<b>Total Cost FY06</b>	\$12,500
<b>Program Category</b>	Library Service Expansion and Access

The Palmer Public Library project sought to reach teens/tweens, an underserved population. An assets and needs survey conducted by the library indicated that staff and patrons were disturbed by teen/tween behavior issues in the library and that teens and tweens needed and wanted to be engaged in fun and productive ways. The staff developed a 20-person teen advisory board, which met monthly, to brainstorm and plan programs and services for teens and tweens. The library also developed several partnerships with local agencies to decrease unproductive behaviors of teens in the library. Several powerful initiatives and programs resulted.