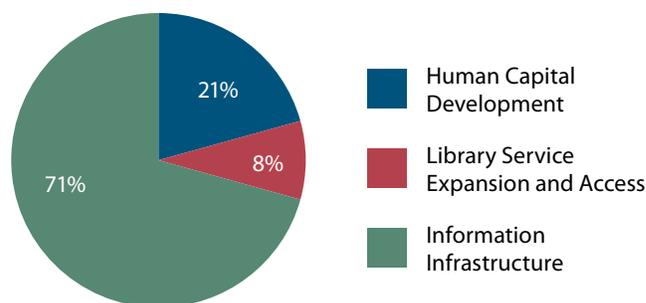


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: WEST VIRGINIA



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	Library Commission of West Virginia
Agency governance	An independent agency in the executive branch that answers to the Governor
Population served in 2006	1,806,760
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$13,406,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$5,192,024
Chief Officer	J.D. Waggoner, Library Commission Secretary
Web site	www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, J.D. Waggoner

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“LSTA has supported our state budget funds. Other state divisions have lost money, but the maintenance of effort requirement has kept us level, with a slight increase. West Virginia doesn’t like to give federal money back! The governor and legislature want to meet all the matches possible.”

Delivery of Library Services:

“In West Virginia a 10-mile drive may take half an hour. Context is important. Schools have consolidated. Now it’s just the libraries providing local access and support to people. The rural and mountainous terrain places limitations on things. It may be only a few miles between communities as the crow flies, but there may be two mountains and three rivers in between! We don’t have regional libraries; we do have a requirement that libraries not directed by an MLS must enter an affiliate arrange-

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

West Virginia	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	\$1,154,946	\$1,293,273	\$1,349,667	\$1,394,138	\$5,192,024
Number of projects reported	9	8	9	14	40
Largest project amount	\$407,305	\$378,314	\$588,595	\$409,623	
Median project amount	\$89,553	\$164,265	\$47,757	\$34,771	

ment with a library directed by an MLS. Two-thirds of our libraries are without an MLS director.

“We have tried to lift technology; we pay 100 percent of the T-1 lines and 56K lines; fewer than 20 libraries are still on 56K. All that is done centrally by the State Library. We also use LSTA to develop libraries, to offer summer reading, and collection development. We have used LSTA more effectively in working with the larger libraries to raise the small ones.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. Local funds are always a challenge. West Virginia is 50th nationally in local support to libraries. The state ranks sixth in state support. There have been challenges to the local funding ordinance.
2. Staff turnover and the greying of the Library Commission itself challenge us. Those leaving are the most experienced within the agency.
3. West Virginia expanded facilities in the 1970s when the federal dollars were flowing. We put up outpost libraries that were never intended to be permanent. We need to make them larger, but funds at the state and federal levels have disappeared for buildings and foundations are being really cramped (overwhelmed) because of that.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Strengthen the ability of libraries to use information technology to improve services and facilitate access to materials and information resources.
- Strengthen the capacity of libraries to offer a wide range of library-based programs and services to meet the lifelong learning needs of all citizens regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic circumstances.
- Strengthen library services for lifelong learning to individuals of all ages, including those with limited functional literacy skills, those with diverse backgrounds, and those with disabilities by providing appropriate training and continuing education opportunities to the library community.

- Strengthen the capacity of libraries to share materials and resources to more fully meet information and library services needs.
- Strengthen public awareness that libraries offer a wide range of resources, programs, and services that meet the lifelong learning needs of all citizens regardless of their geographic location, physical condition, or socioeconomic circumstances.

**Exemplary Project:
West Virginia Library Commission**

Project title	Wireless Access
Library	West Virginia Library Commission
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$32,484
Total Cost FY06	\$35,473
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

With West Virginian households lagging behind the 2006 national average in owning home computers (national 68 percent; West Virginia 58 percent) and in home Internet subscriptions (national 64 percent; West Virginia 54 percent), public libraries are fulfilling the needs of residents seeking access. Libraries are already serving as community centers for free access to the Internet through the Statewide Network Library broadband service available from the West Virginia Library Commission. In an effort to sustain the rural communities of West Virginia, and meet the growing demand of seasonal tourists, the West Virginia Library Commission implemented a grant program for the installation of wireless technologies. In total, 53 libraries applied and received the installation of a wireless network that was capable of issuing passwords and time limits, and maintained the CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) compliance of the Internet access available from the Library Commission.