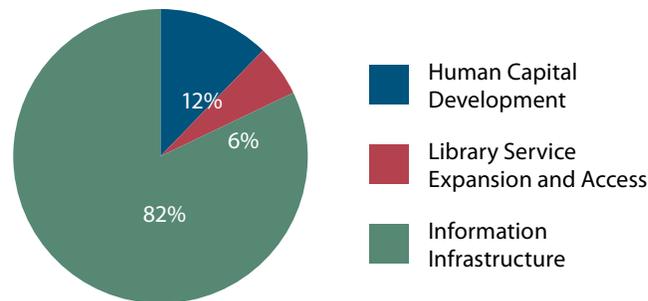


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: ALASKA



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	Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums
Agency governance	Under the Department of Education and Early Development
Population served in 2006	676,301
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$5,148,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$3,116,683
Chief Officer	Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director, Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums
Web site	http://library.state.ak.us

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Kathryn H. Shelton*

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“Most of what we have done relates to technology and in training librarians to grapple with technology and how to best serve their users. Many libraries in Alaska are not staffed by formally trained librarians so the State Library helps both with technology and with education and training.”

Delivery of Library Services: “Alaska is large geographically, but small in population. We’re different in the way delivery happens; we have no regional libraries. Eighty percent of all libraries aren’t on any road system. Most are very small, serving populations of fewer than 2,000 people. Isolation is a major challenge.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. For some libraries in rural and remote areas even the basic cost of fuel and utilities is a challenge. We give them state funds for collections, but they’re having trouble keeping the doors open.

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Alaska	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total Allotment	\$631,170	\$769,497	\$828,563	\$887,453	\$3,116,683
Number of projects reported	24	28	71	63	186
Largest project amount	\$149,820	\$184,473	\$175,959	\$141,929	
Median Project Amount	\$10,226	\$ 10,692	\$1,000	\$1,000	

2. Greying of the profession...who takes our place?

There's no formal training for librarians in the state, they have to go outside. Distance education creates some possibilities, but it's expensive because those who enroll have to pay out of state tuition.

3. Training—there's lots of turnover; pay is poor. We try to bring people into the State Library for training and pay their travel expenses, but it's very challenging to sustain training for paraprofessionals. Distance delivery of education is an interesting possibility that we are exploring, but it is a challenge because of the broadband/connectivity issues in many of our remote sites.

* Kathryn H. Shelton was the Chief Officer at the time that the interviews were conducted.

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Alaskan libraries will support lifelong learning by expanding access to knowledge and information in current and emerging formats.
- Alaskan libraries will improve services to people of diverse backgrounds and to underserved populations.
- Alaskans will have increasingly equitable access to information through an enhanced technological infrastructure.
- Alaskan libraries will actively participate in networks, partnerships, and collaborative activities.
- Alaskan libraries will improve their capacity to provide library services that respond to community needs and expectations.

Exemplary Project: Juneau Public Library

Project title	Regional Services
Library	Juneau Public Library
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$127,820
Total Cost FY06	\$127,820
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

The Regional Services program contracted through the Juneau Public Libraries provides basic library services to individuals and families living outside of local library service areas in southeastern Alaska. Services available to Regional Services patrons include: reader's advisory service; circulation of books, periodicals, and audiovisuals; reference service; and interlibrary loan service. The major benefit of this program has been to both provide and improve access to information and basic library service for all Alaskans, regardless of where they live in the state. Patrons appreciate the personal approach and service that this program makes possible for those living in some of the most remote parts of Alaska.