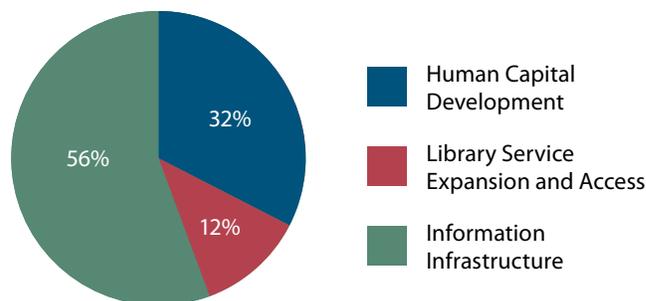


LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: FLORIDA



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	Division of Library and Information Services
Agency governance	Under the Department of State
Population served in 2006	18,019,093
FY 2006 total expenditures	\$60,871,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	\$32,440,719
Chief Officer	Judith Ring, State Librarian
Web site	http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Judith Ring

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“The greatest impact has been the development of the Florida Electronic Library. It has a core set of databases that are accessible to all types of libraries and also includes chat reference service called ‘Ask a Librarian.’ It brings all libraries up to a certain level. The Florida Electronic Library brings current information together and makes it accessible; it gives every library incredible resources that they can offer their patrons. LSTA is vital in all the states for libraries to grow and develop. There’s so much information out there and libraries are good at aggregating and making information available. However, without LSTA Florida libraries won’t be able to keep up or to serve their communities’ needs.”

Delivery of Library Services:

“Florida has rural regional library cooperatives that cover small, economically challenged counties. There are three

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Florida	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	\$7,898,120	\$8,037,303	\$8,172,813	\$8,332,483	\$32,440,719
Number of projects reported	50	41	40	37	168
Largest project amount	\$2,087,962	\$2,641,426	\$3,453,940	\$3,330,214	
Median project amount	\$83,451	\$94,500	\$78,744	\$110,234	

to five counties in a cooperative; they provide some centralized services in a cost-effective manner. There are also six multi-type regionals that serve all types of libraries.

“The rural cooperatives are supported with state aid; the multi-types also get state funds. However, both types of cooperatives can, and do, get LSTA funds through the competitive process. The Division of Library and Information Services delivers and coordinates statewide projects such as the Florida Electronic Library; summer reading program; and the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute.”

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

“Funding! Funding! The economic downturn and the new cap on property taxes have been a double whammy for public libraries. We had 80 new libraries under construction two years ago. Now those being completed can’t open their doors; they don’t have materials and staff. The State Library Agency has lost 4.5 positions this budget year. We had a 4 percent holdback and are facing another 4 percent this year.

“I’m also concerned about technology and being able to progress. People don’t understand why they can’t get adequate broadband through their libraries.

“The demand for e-government services on the Internet, things like applying for food stamps, aid to children, etc., is increasing. People are coming into libraries to apply for these services.”

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- **Leadership Development and Recruitment:** Floridians need strong leadership by library staff that is able to advance and promote libraries, archives, and records management
- **Services:** Floridians receive information and innovative and responsive library services that meet their diverse geographic, cultural and socioeconomic needs.
- **Innovation and Collaboration:** Floridians need viable libraries and archives with services and facilities that adapt to meet user needs and that reflect collaboration and innovation.

Exemplary Project: Orange County Library System

Project title	Technology and Language Training for Employability
Library	Orange County Library System
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	\$110,234
Total Cost FY06	\$175,738
Program Category	Human Capital Development

The Orange County Library System offered a training program to individuals who were currently unemployed or are non-native English speakers for the improvement of computer skills and English language skills for the workplace. Computer equipment technicians established a mobile training lab at the North Orange Branch and a permanent computer training lab at both the South Creek and Hiwassee branches for classroom training purposes. They installed ELLIS (English Language Learning and Instruction System) software at these locations for English language training. Technology and customer support specialists then conducted both career-related computer classes and how-to classes on using ELLIS software to assist the target audiences in gaining employability skills. A strategic partnership with Workforce Central Florida facilitated reaching target audiences and evaluating the effectiveness of the program.