ARPA Grants: Highlights from States

Madison Bolls and Dennis Nangle, Senior Program Officers

Overview

- An early snapshot of ARPA and its impact
- 30 minutes review of reports and you will have the next 30 minutes to add insight and ask questions
- We are so grateful for your wonderful work, as well as your courage to manage extra funds in the scope of an emergency

ARPA Projects in Alabama

We provided technology upgrade grants to 198 public libraries in 66 out of 67 counties (2,223 hardware / 3,595 software) ...

We developed a pilot hotspot lending project targeted to 42 public libraries (144 hotspots / 124.57 TB of data) ...

Outcome: we're exhausted!

ARPA Projects in Louisiana

- We bought computers (hundreds of computers)!
- We made the internet faster!
- We digitized books and newspapers!
- We showed off our rare materials!
- We bought a drone!
- We bought equipment for displays around the parish!
- We held programs!
- Outcome: more & better access to all that we have!
- Outcome: People know more about what we have and can do!

ARPA Projects in Montana

Pandemic broadband connectivity

- Despite being the only source of freely available Wi-Fi in nearly 24% of Montana communities, 40% of libraries had outdated wiring and Wi-Fi equipment.
- ARPA funds allowed for cabling installation at 28 libraries and equipment upgrades at 29 libraries.
- Residents in 53 out of 56 counties borrowed hot spots procured and supported with ARPA funds to bridge access.

Outcomes

- Libraries such as Darby Community Library reported measurable, significant success from this program. Before upgrade: wired download speeds of 30 Mbps. After upgrade: 423 Mbps.
- 48% of library hot spot users reported using the devices for educational or work-related purposes such as completing homework, checking school information, working remotely, or applying for jobs.

28% of Montanans do not have access to 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) internet. **Montana ranks last among all states** on this measure of access. 100 Mbps connections allows citizens to do internet-intensive activities like online job interviews. **2 in 10 Montanans do not have access to an internet plan of at least 25 Mbps**, the minimum broadband speed defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

"Thank you - I am on disability and cannot afford Internet. Having wifi at home is an immense blessing. I'm a shut-in so being connected is wonderful! :) I am using it to learn new things. Thank you, thank you, thank you! :)"

https://bit.ly/hotspotdashboard

ARPA Projects in Washington

$2.4M in subgrants to 51 public, 23 academic, 6 county law, 7 tribal, and 21 museums

$1M for new wi-fi and tech consortium for smaller libraries

$250K for statewide projects including Talking Books & Memories project at Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

Baseball-themed memory kit for low-vision patrons with dementia in senior living communities.

ARPA Projects in Connecticut

We funded 13-month digital navigation pilot projects at 4 public libraries!

We used that experience to launch CT Libraries & Partners for Digital Equity!

Outcomes: We enlarged the digital inclusion ecosystem in the state and inspired towns and library boards to sustain navigator programs

Maisam Nouh with Client in a Digital Navigation Visit

ARPA Project in Massachusetts

Provided a series of 12 customized classes aimed at ensuring digital materials and communication methods were as accessible as possible

Offered actionable steps for libraries to take

Outcome: 98% of responding attendees agreed (20%) or strongly agreed (78%) that applying what they learned will help improve library services

ARPA Projects in Oregon

Competitive subaward projects

• Digital inclusion: Tech outreach, Digital literacy instruction

• Student success: Family tech nights, Mobile VR lab

• Community support: Eviction prevention clinics, Community Engagement Specialist, Community Education Center

• Connecting with underserved communities: Spanish collections for incarcerated adults and at-risk youth; Preserving history of Tamkaliks

Mini-grants = effective way to reach many organizations and quickly distribute funds; pairing with cohorts moving forward

ARPA Projects in Tennessee

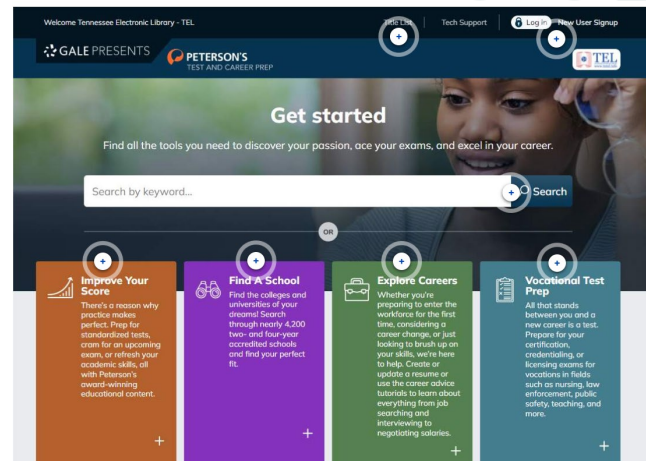We provided a grant to 187 subrecipients

We supported a temporary Instructional Designer to create online training for the TN Electronic Library (TEL Academy)

- 9 modules in Niche Academy

- 50 completed all 9 so far

We purchased e-materials

- For both TEL and our Statewide digital library

Outcome: it was a **lot** of work!

Digital Storytelling Project

Our mission is to kōkua Hawaiian Natives who are committed to achieving their potential for themselves, their families and communities.

People have been sharing their family stories for centuries and as we move through the 21st century propose to do so through the "Digital Storytelling Project"

Engage families on the use of technology to tell their stories.

Training and equipment provided by the project. Training guided the parent and child in working together to build digital skills and produce a short-animated video.

Goal to have 80 participants/80 family stories created!

Working Together

ALU LIKE, Inc.

E alu like mai kākou, e nā ʻōiwi o Hawaiʻi
Let Us Work Together, Natives of Hawaiʻi

ARPA in Washington, D.C.

Air Filters and Self-Check Machines

Digital Navigators and Devices for Residents

Express Collections and Ebook Licenses

Lessons Learned? Funds are great, but hard to spend.

ARPA Projects in Texas

Subgrant Awards

- Community Advancement Packages (CAP) Grant

    87 grants up to $10K each = $709,427

- Texas Supports Libraries Grant

    26 grants up to $50K + $10K/branch = $1,066,756

- Texas Digital Navigator Grant

    10 grants up to $70K + $10K/branch = $1,137,933

- Texas Telehealth Grant

    4 grants up to $25K single ($50K multi-branch) = $107,036

TEXAS ARPA subgrants

127 grants = $3,021,152

ARPA Projects in Rhode Island

- Statewide focus on updating technology and providing statewide digital literacy classes/digital navigators

- Competitive grants from small to large highlighted the benefits of community collaboration

- Challenge: No grants management system for 140 ARPA subgrants

- Outcome: ARPA funding for additional digital resources led to increase in state funds for digital resources

Images from Community Libraries of Providence Spanish-Language artist residency programs with Festum Teatro and muralist Alfonso Acevedo

ARPA in Michigan

Disbursed entire allotment in grants

- 3 statewide content/materials grants

- 21 individual library grants

One rural library liked their hybrid golf cart bookmobile done by a local fabricator so much and talked to so many other libraries about it that the fabricator has quit his day job and now is a full-time bookmobile maker.

MO ARPA Highlights

Missouri Secretary of State
State Library

University City's Electric Tricycle

- Used as a tiny bookmobile at community and outreach events, residential facilities, and delivery to homebound patrons
- Human powered with electric assist

Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School

- Allows students to attain an accredited HS diploma.
- Had more than 100 graduates
- State covers the platform fee. Library covers the student fee.

ARPA PROJECTS IN MISSISSIPPI

- Provided digital books, audio books and periodicals through HOOPLA (10,000 items requested per month)

- Purchased two Charlie Carts to assist with food education library programming throughout the state

- Provided access to Little Free Libraries in rural communities

- Purchased a tech van for staff to travel to public libraries throughout the state to assist with technology issues.

- Grants, grants, and more grants to public libraries to fulfill technology, information access, and other needs throughout their communities (over $1.7 million!)

Over 100 subgrants were made to South Carolina public libraries ($1.3 million)

- Bookmobiles and a book bike!
- Multilingual collections
  - Single language and bilingual juvenile and adult materials in Spanish, Russian, French, Mandarin, Arabic, Korean, German, and Ukrainian
- AWE Learning Machines (approximately 230)
- Emergency Preparedness Kits
  - Items for emergency and disaster response (PPE, small generators, dehumidifiers, interleaving materials, wet/dry vacuums, first aid kits etc.)
- Technology upgrades (learning lab computers, self-checkout stations, book kiosks and lockers)

A lot of subgrants = a lot of paperwork

But also a lot of great projects!

Wisconsin ARPA-Supported Projects

Community Resiliency

Spooner Memorial Library (March 2023) - [Bibliodragon Bookmobile](#) travels throughout Washburn County to bring books and food to residents.

Electronic Resources Collaboration

A statewide inventory and analysis of electronic databases purchased by public and school libraries is helping guide procurement for BadgerLink – Wisconsin's Online Library.

Hybrid Service Options

Kenosha Public Library – Installed [lending libraries](#) in community centers (Kenosha YMCA and Boys and Girls Club) for afterschool and summer programs.

Safe Libraries and Spaces

Bridges, Milwaukee County, *and South Central Library Systems - B*ought external, automated lockers for 16 of their member libraries to allow patrons to pick up materials conveniently and safely 24 hours a day.

ARPA Projects in Arkansas

- First time to award subgrants with LSTA G2S funds.

- Book Lockers were popular.

- Outdoor programming materials and furniture were purchased for multiple libraries.

IMLS American Rescue Plan Act Funds in Arkansas (ARPA)

12%

88%

- Statewide Projects
- Public Library Subawards
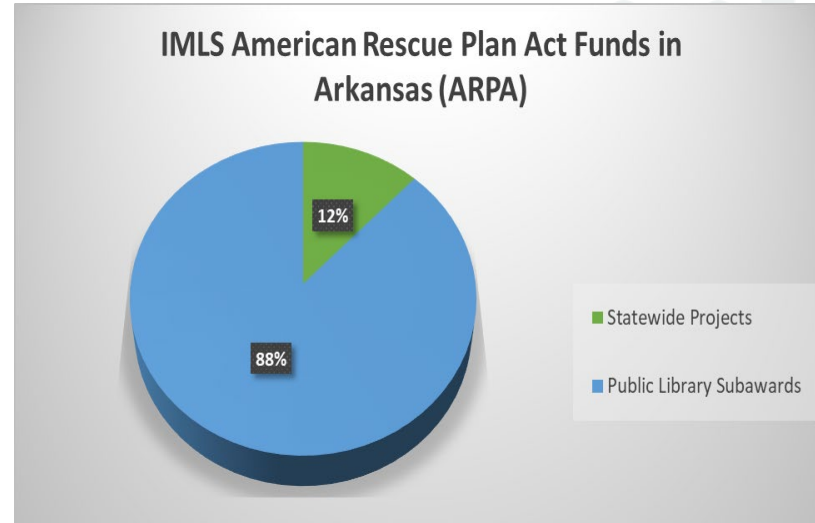
ARPA Projects in Nebraska

$1.3M – Formula based grants

$450K to other competitive sub-grants
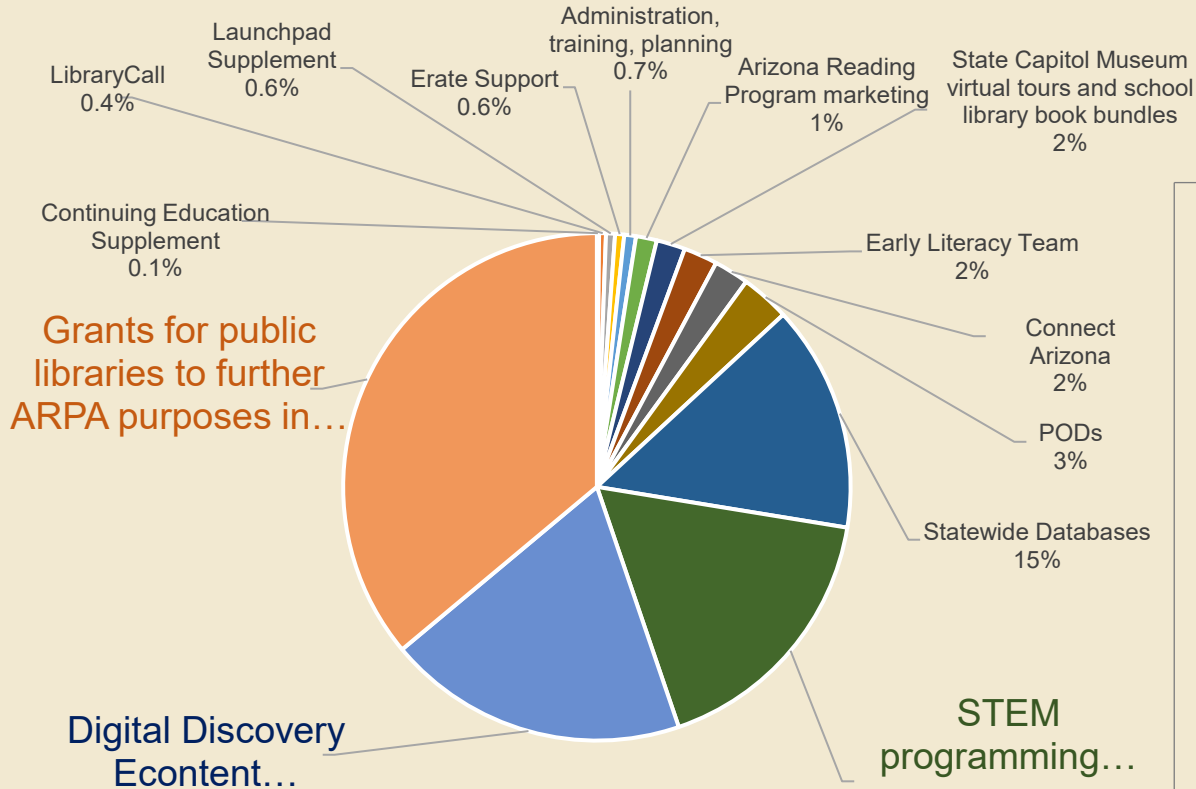
*Furniture was a popular item, but hard to get

*A number of projects for outdoor spaces, children's areas, and collections

*It was a challenge getting reports from rural libraries (often single staffed)

STEM projects at the Ashland Public Library

Arizona Distribution of 2021 ARPA Funds

Pie chart: Arizona Distribution of 2021 ARPA Funds

- LibraryCall 0.4%
- Launchpad Supplement 0.6%
- Erate Support 0.6%
- Administration, training, planning 0.7%
- Arizona Reading Program marketing 1%
- State Capitol Museum virtual tours and school library book bundles 2%
- Continuing Education Supplement 0.1%
- Early Literacy Team 2%
- Connect Arizona 2%
- PODs 3%
- Statewide Databases 15%
- Grants for public libraries to further ARPA purposes in…
- Digital Discovery Econtent…
- STEM programming…

- Entered 77 ARPA projects into the SPR.
- **Top 3 ARPA Projects**
  - Prioritized local needs with 69 subawards to public and tribal libraries.
  - Distributed 15,920 e-books to 32 public and tribal libraries through vendor accounts.
  - Supported STEAM learning with 735 thematic kits to 30 libraries and 1,034 items such as telescopes and coding kits to 49 libraries.
- Unexpected: Some ARPA subrecipients later applied for LSTA subgrants for the first time!

INSTITUTE of MUSEUM and Library SERVICES

PROVIDING ACCESS
Preserving Arizona
Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records

ADRIAN FONTES
SECRETARY OF STATE

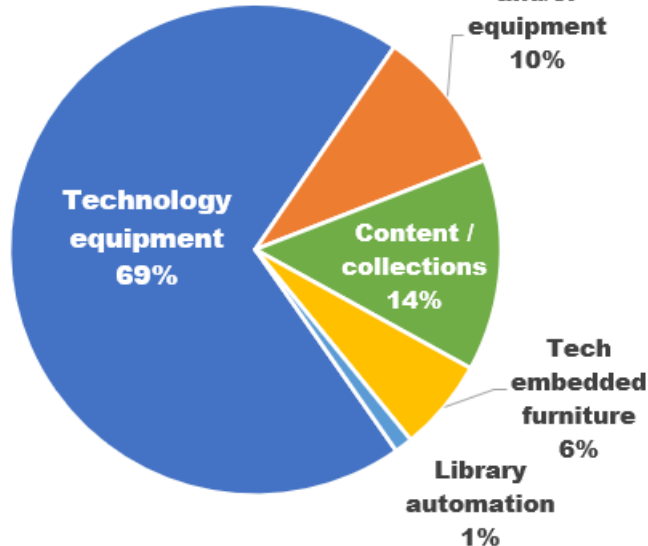# ARPA Projects in South Dakota

CHECK OUT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

- SDTTG Overdrive Consortium Books $76K!

- New $100K Indus scanner for our digitization program!

- Penworthy & Citizen Science kits!

Subgrants to 78 SD public, school, academic libraries

SDSL ARPA grant expenditures

Technology equipment 69%

Digitization projects and/or equipment 10%

Content / collections 14%

Tech embedded furniture 6%

Library automation 1%

Utah's ARPA Spending

LESSONS LEARNED
- Survey libraries for need to fund projects intentionally
- SIMPLIFY
- Use challenges as opportunities to get a seat at the table

FAVORITE PROJECTS
- Hydroponic Gardens for food deserts
- "Digital Me" digital skills classes

Rachel Cook | rcook@utah.gov | 801-715-6722

ARPA Projects in Alaska

Libraries, museums, and schools diversified their collections.

Purchased new computers, upgraded Wi-Fi, hotspots, and other equipment.

Delayed projects were finally completed.

Outcomes: It was stressful! Some projects weren't completed during the grant period.

"Story Walk" by Kodiak Public Library

ARPA Projects in Colorado

Subrecipient Grants

Public Libraries
92 Grants
$1,891,617.84

School Libraries
122 Grants
$964,100

Academic Libraries
22 Grants
$137,723.65

Colorado Talking
Book Library
$5,942.44

State Run
Institutions
31 locations
$47,394.32

State Library
Statewide
Initiatives $
86,950

EQUITABLE, DIVERSE, & INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO MATERIALS

In December 2021, Digital Literacy Partners received training about conducting a diversity analysis of their library
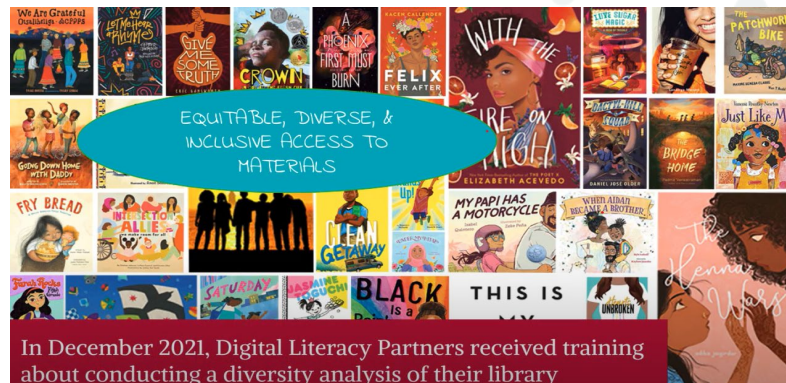
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
989 Print Books
80 eBooks 9 eAudiobooks

Resource Sharing: School Libraries

Collaborative Collection Development for Wyoming School Libraries

- 208 school libraries benefited statewide
- More than 15,000 physical and electronic materials added
- Facilitated remote access and extended checkouts

Outcome: robust, diverse, and accessible collections

"Thank you so much for choosing my school to be a part of the Wyoming school library collection development project! It has helped me purchase books that I have been wanting to fill my library shelves."

Munger Mountain Elementary School on Wyoming Snapshot Day

Inclusive Services ARPA Projects - Vermont

- "What Is a Library" Translations
- Welcoming Library Collections
- Accessible Youth Collection
- Large Print Collection Transformation
- At-home Recording Equipment

ARPA in New Mexico

NM State Library passed ARPA funding to public library subgrantees to use where they most needed.

One exception was the Navajo Nation Library, which was not able to accept direct funding. The State Library requested an extension to purchase for their new branch libraries:

- Children's Books

- Shelving

- Adult and Children's Computers

- Book Returns

Highlight! Taos Public Library installed a new Makerspace with ARPA funding. It included 10 sewing machines. One young lady started learning how to make stuffed animals, then progressed to hemming clothes and then to making clothes from scratch. She previously found it hard to afford clothes that fit her well, but she has turned into quite a fashionista and budding designer. She now proudly wears her own designs made entirely on the library's sewing machines to school!

ARPA Projects in Puerto Rico

Goal: Provide professional development opportunities to increase academic achievement negatively impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

✓ Approximately 144 librarians participated in a 6 hour on-site workshop on *The school librarian as an ally and enhancer of student learning.*

✓ Participants showed increased knowledge (as shown in pre & post assessment results).

✓ Outcome: Librarian workforce prepared for assisting teachers and students remotely.

Goal: Attend to the information Needs in communities as a result of the Pandemic

✓ We equipped 14 public libraries and 469 school libraries with "tablets."

✓ We have been working with the implementation of the project, to provide students and communities with information services and providing help in the process of requesting assistance services related to situations caused by COVID-19.

✓

Outcome: Better equipped libraries that provided much needed services when government offices were closed.

Indiana State Library
ARPA Subgrants

Of the $3.47 million in ARPA funds, ISL distributed 74% as subgrants;
71% ($2.46 million) went to individual Indiana libraries.

The Good

- 150 libraries received awards ranging from $5,000 to $26,050

- Libraries came up with an impressive variety of projects

The Not So Good

- Less applicants than expected

- Despite LSTA and CARES subgrant programs, ISL was not prepared to administer such a large amount of funds so quickly.

- Supply chain shortages and tight deadlines meant that final projects were often different than the initial proposals.

Needs Assessment: Iowa Public Libraries

The State Library of Iowa contracted with Dr. Beth Wahler to conduct a needs assessment of Iowa libraries to: 1) Identify strategies for improving capacity to respond to patron psychosocial needs; and 2) Respond to the changing needs of libraries seeking to meet those needs.

Recommendations:

- Training and information: patrons in crises, de-escalation, and access community resources.

- Support for library staff mental health and wellbeing, and assistance building resilience in the face of work-related stress.

What's next?

- 5 Year Plan: 2023-2027

- *Building Public Library Capacity for Serving High-Needs Patrons*

Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative

- Developed with TeachingBooks

- Focused on youth collections

- Includes toolkit, guides, live support, targeted webinars

- Outcomes (thus far)

  - Multi-type libraries from 86 of 88 Ohio counties participating

  - More than 600 collections analyzed

  - Interest in replicating in other states

Spotlight on Diverse Graphic Novels

https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/library-programs-development/ohio-collection-analysis-initiative/

ARPA in NC

Outcomes:

Increasing circulation of other technologies

Continuing to seek funding to fulfill need for internet access

Strengthened community partnerships

"STEM Camp" by Wayne County Public Library

ARPA Subawards in New York

Highlights

Digital Inclusion

- Digital literacy for seniors using Senior Planet

Library/Museum Partnerships

- STEM workshops with diversity/equity awareness

Digital Resources for Students

- Spotlight on Social and Emotional Learning Series

ARPA Projects in Oklahoma

Targeted ARPA Grants allowed each site to address specific needs.

- Donald W. Reynolds Community Center & Library (Durant) used the funds to create an outdoor learning space for programs.

- Standing Bear Park Museum and Education Center (Ponca City) used the funds to create a website and virtual tour of the museum and property.

- Other purchases included easily sanitized furniture, air purifiers, soundproofing material, technology, audio/visual equipment and e-content licenses.
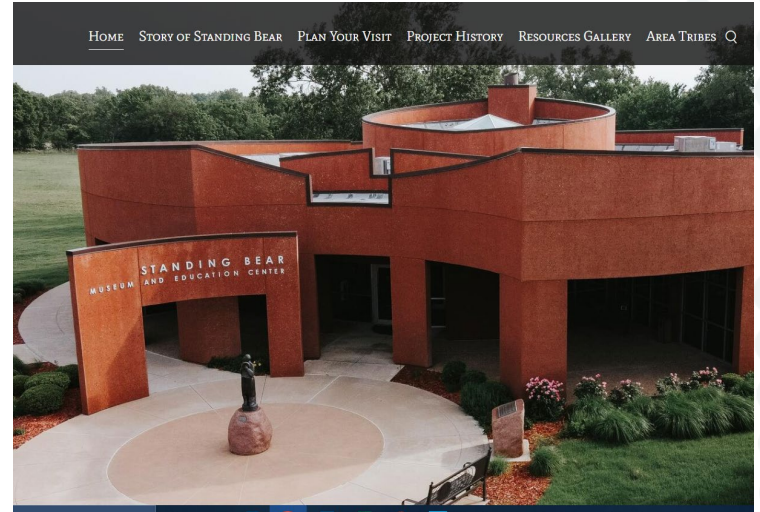

Image: Standing Bear Park Museum and Education Center

California's ARPA Project

Workforce Development and Support

- Provided six digital workforce platforms to California public libraries
- 374,000+ lessons and over 395,000+ hours of learning completed

Digital Navigators

- Created, piloted, and launched project which now partners with 50+ library jurisdictions
- Assisted patrons in finding low-cost internet service and devices, learning basic computer skills, and finding and using online resources to improve their life

Home Connectivity Kits

- Supplied almost 1,500 Chromebooks and 1,300+ Hotspots to 68 library jurisdictions serving 21 million Californians

eBooks-for-All California

- Established free, shared statewide collection of 101,000+ eBooks and eAudiobooks
- Provided Palace Project app to public libraries and statewide collection access to cardholders

210 ARPA Projects in Illinois

14 academic libraries, 153 public libraries, 39 school districts' libraries, and 4 special libraries responded to the pandemic:

30 subgrants supported workforce recovery:
- In person and virtual employment related programs, online resources

**47 subgrants transformed services to accommodate online learning and working remotely:**
- Circulating hot spots, computers with webcams, microphones

133 subgrants initiated protocols to comply with pandemic guidelines and to bring people back into libraries:
- Health of patrons and staff: deep cleaning, replaced fabric with vinyl to reduce the spread of COVID
- Social distancing: moveable furniture, self-checkout,
- Moved programs/services outdoors: Storywalk®, "picnic" tables/benches

Tiny Library $25,000
Millstadt Public Library
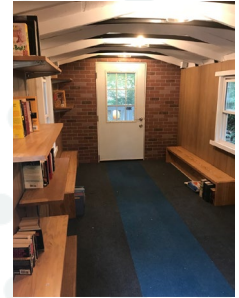
- Imagine a giant Little Free Library.
- Built by HS woodworking classes & volunteers.
- Pulled by any pickup truck with a trailer hitch.
- ADA compliant.
- One family at a time for social distancing.
- Expanded access for vulnerable patrons.

ARPA Projects in Minnesota

- **Little Moments Count Parenting Project with the MN Department of Corrections**

- **CareerForce contract with DEED and Enhancing Workforce Grants to Libraries**

- **The New Millennium Academy Library Paj Ntaub program**

New Jersey's ARPA Projects

HUB, SPOKE & NAVIGATOR LIBRARIES
NJSL + PARTNERS LITERACY PROJECT

Library-led, adult digital literacy, emphasizing basic computer skills and job seeking.
Fixed labs, certifications, common tools and training materials, uniform metrics.

MAJOR &MINI Grants for Public Libraries

Grants for 64 public libraries to support digital inclusion efforts to help libraries reach and serve residents and alleviate pandemic-related needs.

Electronic Resources

Perpetual use E-books

NJHealthConnect @ YOUR LIBRARY

The ongoing pandemic put a spotlight on inequities in the healthcare system.
This program's technology offered links to telemedicine apps for doctor appointments, and links to COVID and high-quality health literacy resources.

NJ State Library
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

Additional Insight & Questions