

Federal Library Funds

Administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as part of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the Grants to States program is the largest source of federal funding support for library services in the U.S. Using a population based formula, more than \$150 million is distributed among the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) every year. SLAAs are official agencies charged by law with the extension and development of library services. The Connecticut State Library is the SLAA for Connecticut and the State Librarian is empowered to receive federal funds (Sec. 11-2a).

In Federal Fiscal Year 2016, Connecticut received \$2,022,715 through the LSTA Grants to State program.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

To receive the full amount allowed by the LSTA Grants to States formula, a state must maintain its financial support for library programs and services at not less than the average amount reported for the previous 3 years. This is called maintenance of effort (MOE).

Included in the calculation of the state's financial support is all state dollars expended by the State library administrative agency for library programs that are consistent with the purposes of the Library Services and Technology Act and shall not include capital expenditures, special one-time projects costs, or similar windfalls.

The Connecticut State Library's MOE currently includes:

- Personnel costs (salaries and benefits) for state-paid employees in the Division of Library Development, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and deliverIT
- Other expenses related to the operation of the Middletown Library Service Center and LBPH
- Statewide Digital Library
- Cooperating Library Service Units
- Connecticard (borrowIT)

Previously we had included:

- Grants in Aide (funding eliminated in FY 2017)
- OE related to Willimantic Library Service Center (closed as a result of budget cuts in FY2017)

Connecticard (borrowIT) is a major component of MOE. Funding for Connecticard has dropped from \$1.226 million in FY 2009 to \$781,820 in FY 2017.

Eliminating Connecticard funding altogether brings the State Library **18%** below its MOE.

When a state cannot meet its MOE, federal funding is reduced proportionately. In this case Connecticut would lose approximately **\$363,000**.