

2018 Program Report Card: Connecticard (borrowIT CT), Connecticut's Reciprocal Borrowing (CT State Library)

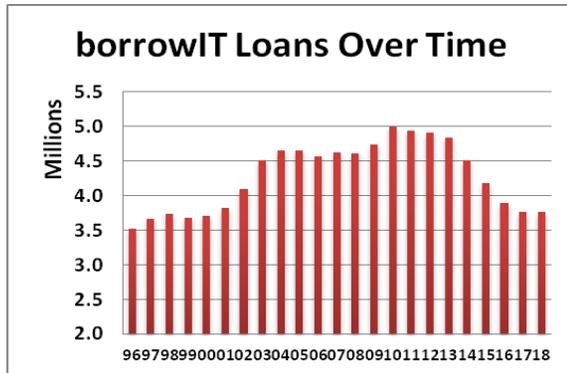
Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut residents are lifelong learners.

Contribution to the Result: Connecticut residents are able to check out items from any of the 190 public libraries in the state, thereby providing equitable access to needed library materials. (C.G.S. 11-31b)

Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding	Value of the 3,763,472 Items Borrowed
Actual SFY 17 w/rescission	\$781,820	\$0	\$0	\$781,820	\$56,500,000
Estimated SFY 18	\$703,638	\$0	\$0	\$703,638	

Partners: 1,457,623 residents with library cards, 169 towns, 190 public libraries

How Much Did We Do?



- **3,763,472** items were borrowed through the program in FY 2017.
- **15%** of all circulation in Connecticut public libraries is by non-residents.
- The **1,457,623** Connecticut residents with library cards may borrow from any public library in Connecticut.

Use Trend ▲

Story behind the baseline:

Municipal Resource Sharing

The **3.7** million items loaned to residents of other towns represents a value of over **\$56 million** (\$15/item).

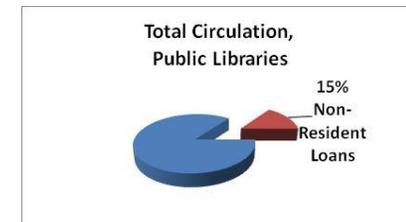
Municipalities bear well over 80% of the costs for this program; with local libraries receiving an average of 86% of their funding from local taxpayers. A study conducted in 2004 demonstrated that it costs local libraries an average of **\$1.05** per transaction to lend to non-residents – not including the cost of the item.

They are currently reimbursed an average of just \$0.21 cents per transaction, a drop from \$0.28 cents per transaction in 2008. This grant is at the minimum level necessary to keep participation from those libraries that bear most of the burden of this program. **Libraries who lend the most to non-residents receive higher payments because they also contribute more of their own resources to the program.**

Equity of Access

Any resident of the state has access to the **15 million items** in Connecticut libraries, **88%** of which are books.

How Well Did We Do It?



This program is a reimbursement of service for loans made in public libraries to non-residents. All funding goes directly to the local library, and those libraries who lend more items to non-residents receive more reimbursement. A library also receives a bonus when lending to non-residents exceeds the lending the library's card-holders make in other libraries. Why? To reward those who put more of their resources into the program than they receive in benefits. Also, by making library materials more accessible to more people, the cost efficiency of each library's collections is higher.

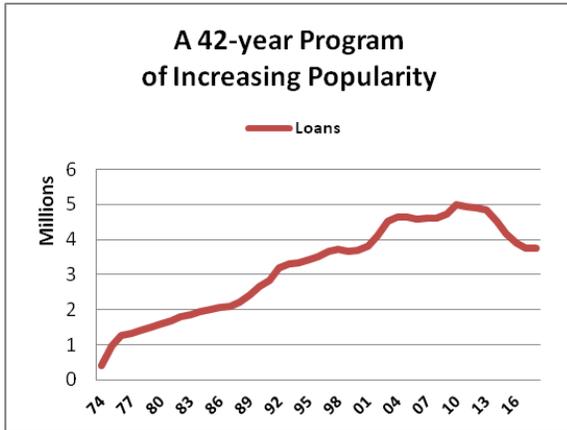
There is almost no State Library administrative overhead to this program. Libraries submit data on an online form and a small portion of one position is responsible for administering the program.

Cost Efficiency Trend ▲

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Is Anyone Better Off?



Story behind the baseline1:

Connecticut citizens benefit from Connecticard legislation passed 45 years ago in June 1973. Since then, use of the program by Connecticut citizens has increased steadily. Library card holders may go to any public library and borrow library material, and, thanks to its sister program Connecticard (now deliverIT), they can return their borrowed material to any public library in Connecticut using the Connecticard service.

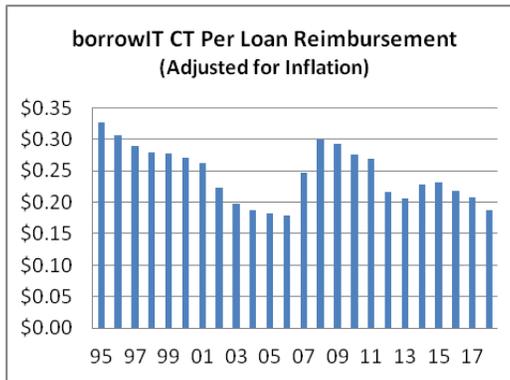
Examples:

- A businessman who lives in one town and works in another is able to use the library where he works.
- A woman interested in reading a book that is not available in her local library is able to drive to a neighboring library and get it immediately.

- An entire class is given the same assignment, quickly depleting the resources at their local library. Students are able to visit neighboring libraries to find the materials needed to complete their homework.
- A family's first language is Polish. Their local library doesn't have the resources to buy Polish books but they are able to use a neighboring library with a strong Polish collection.

Story behind the baseline2:

The portion of the cost that municipalities must cover has increased as the reimbursement per loan has decreased. Therefore, the libraries who lend the most are also contributing more of their own resources to the program. **Today all 190 Connecticut public libraries participate in Connecticard.** Libraries that lend the most will be penalized the most should funding be reduced or eliminated.



Reimbursement Trend ▼

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

Connecticard is at its heart a resource sharing program. If the hometown libraries had to purchase books borrowed through Connecticard it would cost them over **\$56 million dollars**. In 2007 the legislature increased reimbursement when many libraries were being pressured by their municipalities to pull out of the program. **Since that time funding has dropped back to levels below that which brought on the crisis in 2006.**

Reduced funding will jeopardize the 100% library participation we now enjoy. For towns that withdraw from the program, non-residents would be charged new fees and the town's residents would face fees for all libraries they visit.

Zero funding will eliminate the program entirely. CT citizens would be charged for borrowing at nearly every library they visit. A large increase in interlibrary loan would result. As many as 30% of the 3.7 million current Ccard transactions may become ILLs, which translates to **1.2 million more Ccar deliveries per year**, a huge increase which Ccar would not be able to absorb.

Data Development Agenda:

The State Library eliminated all reporting costs by replacing a vendor with an in-house solution. The State Library will continue to keep statistics on non-resident loans and provide libraries with reports which identify the levels and source of non-resident loan circulation.