The Washington State Library (WSL) ensures that residents of the entire state have access to educational materials, research capabilities, and resources that change lives. WSL achieves these goals using federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, which are dependent on state matching funding, to offer consulting services, grants, subsidies, training, and other programs that improve libraries.

Awards & Subsidies
WSL provides funding to support local libraries through circulating STEM kits, professional development grants, digital literacy, early literacy programming, cost-sharing of online databases, and 24/7 online reference services.

Training Opportunities
WSL provides training opportunities for the library staff and the public including Microsoft Office training and industry-recognized certification, professional development, and specialized training for library administration.

For every $1 of state funding, the state receives approximately $1.16 in additional federal LSTA funding to support libraries.

Data from October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018, and Federal Fiscal Year 2018 budgets

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A growing problem in many libraries is that they have become a de facto destination for some of the homeless population. Libraries are welcoming to all, but staff often need new skills and tools to work effectively with this population. Seeing a need, WSL brought a national expert to our state to offer training and best practices to library staff. The training was enthusiastically received with this comment from library staff in this district: “I have become more comfortable working with the homeless in a public setting these past couple years, through a lot of conflict, stress, and built-experience. That being said, I learned way more than I expected in this training that my brain is still trying to wrap itself around all of the valuable content. It really was a world-class presentation.”