



# The impact of LSTA funds in Iowa

The State Library of Iowa relies on Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to deliver statewide library development initiatives and services to Iowa libraries and citizens. This critical funding is tied to matching dollars from the Iowa Legislature.

Iowa received \$2,133,597 for Federal Fiscal Year 2023, which was spent over a grant period from Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2025.

**Flip this page over to find out more about State Library programs and resources that were supported by LSTA funding.**

## IOWANS VALUE LIBRARIES

Each day, library doors across Iowa open, welcoming all kinds of people in to borrow a book, use the free Wi-Fi, or attend a program. Even at home, the library is there, offering ebooks and audiobooks for checkout, and online resources to support jobseekers, veterans, students, and more.

Iowa public libraries continue to be an asset to the communities they serve. Take a look at some data sourced from the most recent Iowa Public Library Statistics:

- Library visits: 12,686,533
- Registered library users: 1,749,934
- Physical items circulated: 15,955,210
- Digital items circulated: 4,737,817
- Programs offered: 117,406
- Program attendees: 2,205,282
- Wi-Fi sessions: 3,264,319

NUMBER OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN IOWA:



PUBLIC LIBRARIES SERVE **98%** OF IOWANS

**408** PUBLIC LIBRARIES (75%) ARE IN COMMUNITIES OF **2,499 OR LESS**

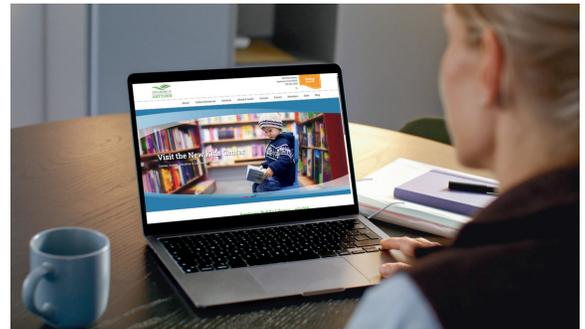
AS OF FY25, **472** PUBLIC LIBRARIES HOLD A TIER STATUS, WITH **419** OF THOSE ACCREDITED

## In Federal Fiscal Year 2023, LSTA-supported programs:

- **Facilitated the sharing of materials** via the **IA Shares** statewide delivery service for public libraries and interlibrary loan system known as **SILO**.
- **Helped Iowans understand legal topics** with a plain language website on Iowa's laws called the **People's Law Library of Iowa**.
- **Supported literacy and promoted STEM concepts in libraries** with the statewide **Summer Library Program**, the **All Iowa Reads** program, and **STEM To Go & Storytime Kits** available for checkout to libraries.
- **Trained and supported skilled public librarians and effective library boards** by offering ongoing **Continuing Education** opportunities and the **State Library Endorsement** program for library directors, staff, and youth services librarians.
- **Provided online resources and tools for library management, digital lending, and more**, including **WhoFi**, a suite of tools to assist library operations with program scheduling and registration, statistics tracking, and a Wi-Fi usage counter. In addition, LSTA funding covered the platform fee and magazine collection for the statewide digital library consortium **Bridges**, and the **Brainfuse HelpNow** resource for learners.
- **Allowed libraries to reach the communities they serve** by providing no cost website hosting and support through the **PLOW** program.
- **Supported State Library staff to administer** the **Standards and Accreditation** program for public libraries.
- **Collected and provided data on Iowa's population, demographics, libraries, and more** through the **State Data Center** and **Iowa Library Statistics** programs.



The State Library offers 72 STEM To Go & Storytime Kits to libraries, including this Food Storytime Kit for ages 3-6.



The PLOW program provides Iowa public libraries access to a website platform, hosting, and support.



The Director Roundtables, led by State Library District Consultants, give library directors the chance to network, learn, and share experiences.