



COLORADO
Department of Education



COLORADO STATE LIBRARY

FY 2023-2024 Annual Report

MISSION: WHAT WE DO

Colorado Department of Education

Ensuring equity and opportunity for every student, every step of the way.

Colorado State Library

The Colorado State Library (CSL) helps libraries, schools, museums, and other organizations improve services, making it easier for all Coloradans to access and use the materials and information they need for lifelong learning.

VALUES: WHAT WE BELIEVE



STRATEGIC GOALS: WHAT WE PROMOTE

Strategic Goal 1: Learning For All Ages



All Colorado residents will have access to library services that support formal educational achievement and inspire lifelong learning.

This goal meets the following purposes and priorities for Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funding:

- expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and digital literacy skills; and
- develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations.

Strategic Goal II: Resource Sharing & Technology Services



Colorado libraries will share resources, expertise, and systems statewide to ensure the efficient delivery of library services to their diverse communities.

This goal meets the following purposes and priorities for Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funding:

- establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improve coordination among and between libraries and entities, for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
- develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations; and
- develop library services that provide all users access information through local, state, regional, national, and international collaborations, and networks.

Strategic Goal III: Professional Development for Library Staff



Colorado library staff and leadership will continuously enhance their skills, advancing library services to Colorado residents.

This goal meets the following purposes and priorities for Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funding:

- to provide training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership, and advance the delivery of library and information services.

Strategic Goal IV: Services to Underserved Populations



Underserved Colorado residents will receive services from Colorado libraries that meet their individual needs.

This goal meets the following purposes and priorities for Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funding:

- target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills; and
- target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Nicolle Davies

Assistant Commissioner/State Librarian

As State Librarian for Colorado, I am pleased to present our FY 2023-2024 Annual Report highlighting another remarkable year of service to Colorado's diverse communities.

This year, the Colorado State Library has continued to fulfill our mission of helping libraries, schools, museums, and other organizations improve services for all Coloradans. Through our strategic initiatives, we've expanded access to resources, strengthened professional development opportunities, and created innovative programs to reach underserved populations across our state.

I'm particularly proud of our achievements in several key areas:

Our State Grants for Libraries program reached an impressive 97% of libraries statewide, providing essential funding for books, digital resources, and technology. Our telehealth pilot program, launched in partnership with the Office of eHealth Innovation, has helped bridge healthcare gaps in 17 rural communities. And our professional development initiatives delivered 279 training events, empowering nearly 5,000 library staff with new skills and knowledge.

The Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection continued to preserve our state's rich history, now offering free access to 4.7 million pages from over 790 newspaper titles. Meanwhile, our Colorado Talking Book Library circulated more than 780,000 items to Coloradans with print disabilities, ensuring equitable access to information for all.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of the exceptional staff of the Colorado State Library and the collaborative spirit of Colorado's library community. As we look ahead, we remain committed to innovation, inclusion, and excellence in serving the evolving needs of our state.

Thank you to our partners, supporters, and the people of Colorado for your continued engagement with libraries. Together, we are building stronger, more informed, and more connected communities across our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Nicolle Davies Assistant Commissioner/State Librarian Colorado State Library

STATE LIBRARY STAFF

Administration

Nicolle Davies, Assistant Commissioner

davies_n@cde.state.co.us

Jean Heilig, Fiscal Officer & LSTA Grant Coordinator

Heilig_j@cde.state.co.us

Melissa Carlson, State Grants to Libraries Program Manager

Carlson_m@cde.state.co.us

Institutional Library Development

Renee Barnes, Director

Barnes_r@cde.state.co.us

Teresa Allen, Youth Institutions & Acquisitions Senior Consultant

Allen_t@cde.state.co.us

Molly Bassford, Institutional Libraries Senior Consultant

Bassford_m@cde.state.co.us

Erin Boyington, Adult Institutions Senior Consultant

Boyington_e@cde.state.co.us

Library Development



Tiah Frankish, Director

Frankish_t@cde.state.co.us

Mary Bills, Technical Coordinator

Bills_m@cde.state.co.us

Kate Brunner, Youth & Family Services Consultant

Brunner_k@cde.state.co.us

Kate Compton, Early Literacy Consultant

Compton_k@cde.state.co.us

Polly Gallagher, Public Library Leadership

Gallagher_p@cde.state.co.us

Kieran Hixon, Rural & Small Libraries Senior Consultant

Hixon_k@cde.state.co.us

Christine Kreger, Professional Development Consultant

Kreger_c@cde.state.co.us

Tammy Langeberg, Highly Effective School Library Coordinator

Langeberg_t@cde.state.co.us

Cristy Moran, Adult Services Consultant

Moran_c@cde.state.co.us

Suzi Tonini, School Library Consultant

Tonini_s@cde.state.co.us

Library Research Service

Charissa Brammer, Director

Brammer_c@cde.state.co.us

Amy Bahlenhorst, Research Analyst

Bahlenhorst_a@cde.state.co.us

Dana Peterson, Data consultant & Web Developer

Peterson_d@cde.state.co.us

Networking and Resource Sharing

Regan Harper, Director

Harper_r@cde.state.co.us

Babi Hammond, Digital Experience Consultant

Hammond_b@cde.state.co.us

Amy Hitchner, Metadata & Integration Services Consultant

Hitchner_a@cde.state.co.us

Dave Hodgins, Chief Technology Manager

Hodgins_d@cde.state.co.us

Leigh Jeremias, Digital Collections Consultant

Jeremias_l@cde.state.co.us

Michael Peever, Program Coordinator

Peever_m@cde.state.co.us

Marisa Wood, Resource Sharing Consultant

Wood_m@cde.state.co.us

State Publications Library



Nicolle Steffen, Director

Steffen_n@cde.state.co.us

Miranda Doran-Myers, Technical Services Librarian

Doran-Myers_m@cde.state.co.us

Samantha Hager, Outreach and Digital Repository Librarian

Hager_s@cde.state.co.us

Virginia Inness, Senior Consultant & Cataloger

Inness_v@cde.state.co.us

Meghan McCann, Technical Services Specialist

McCann_m@cde.state.co.us

Colorado Talking Book Library



Nicolle Steffen, Director

Steffen_n@cde.state.co.us

Judy Craig-Robb, Reader Advisor

Craig-Robb_j@cde.state.co.us

Teresa Kalber, Systems Administrator

Kalber_t@cde.state.co.us

Tyler Kottman, Studio Director

Kottman_t@cde.state.co.us

Lily Li, Mail Operations

Li_l@cde.state.co.us

Andrea Loughry, Reader Advisor

Loughry_a@cde.state.co.us

Terri Marcotte, Volunteer Coordinator

Marcotte_t@cde.state.co.us

Cris Miller, Technical Services Librarian

Miller_c@cde.state.co.us

Lorrie Sporing, Reader Advisor

Sporing_l@cde.state.co.us

Liz Williams, Senior Readers Advisor

Williams_l@cde.state.co.us

Tod Zeigler, Mail Operations Manager

Zeigler_t@cde.state.co.us

FY 2023-2024: AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATION

STATE GRANTS FOR LIBRARIES – 97% OF ALL LIBRARIES IN THE STATE RECEIVED FUNDING

Public Libraries
110 Grants
\$1,815,068

School Libraries
172 Grants
\$933,977

Academic Libraries
26 Grants
\$154,697



82,114 Books



61,708 eBooks



217 DVDs



422 Databases



2,333 Audiobooks



3,275 eAudiobooks



2,291 Periodical Subscriptions



1,066 Technology

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Early Literacy Programming



The Colorado State Library (CSL) coordinates statewide early literacy initiatives including resources and materials for families and caregivers; training, resources, and consulting for early literacy professionals. Staff provided a range of professional development opportunities for library professionals including conference sessions, in-person trainings, the annual Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy virtual conference, and the Growing Readers Together training course. These opportunities provided public libraries with critical, accessible continuing education about early childhood development, literacy skills, school readiness, and local early childhood systems-building.

- Staff provided eight 60 minute facilitated learning sessions with an 11-person cohort consisting of library professionals from rural, suburban, and urban library jurisdictions across the state. The Growing Readers Together (GRT) training course consisted of six learning modules based on GRT best practices for early literacy and learning in public libraries, community outreach and partnership, serving informal family, friend, and neighbor caregivers.

- Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL), provides a range of unique, focused professional development and networking opportunities to library staff within and beyond Colorado. The State Library provided support for the planning and execution of the annual virtual CLEL conference. The event had 284 attendees with three keynote sessions and 20 break-out sessions.
- Staff created a workbook-style learning resource focused on design thinking for early literacy services. Staff also created 311 activity bags for caregivers to engage children in early literacy development as well as 40 outreach bins to encourage libraries to engage with Family Friends and Neighbors in their local communities.

Colorado Family Literacy Programs



Youth & Family Services Consultants coordinated statewide initiatives including youth services training, networking, and consulting for library staff.

- Staff conducted six Summer Library Program planning workshops for 132 attendees. Topics included resources from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), resources from Colorado Parks & Wildlife, intergenerational programming, capturing program impact, and leveraging design thinking for summer planning.
- Three interactive trainings were provided for 45 attendees on intergenerational programming in public libraries and leveraging design thinking strategies to co-design library programs, services, and spaces with the community.
- Staff provided 50 print and 221 digital Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) manuals to 112 public library jurisdictions, 3 military libraries, and 1 special library (Denver Botanical Gardens).

CSL Staff Provided 279 Training Events to 4,881 Library Staff



The Colorado State Library is committed to cultivating a culture of learning to empower Colorado library staff by offering professional development in a variety of formats, including in-person training, online webinars, self-paced online tutorials, and a website dedicated to continuing education.

Highly Effective Schools Through Libraries



The Highly Effective Schools Through Libraries (HESL) program provides guidance for K-12 educators and recognizes outstanding school library programs and staff. The HESL program was expanded this year to include a new Library Paraprofessional pathway. CSL staff provided 17 learning sessions to 329 learners. The team supported 73 school library professionals in earning 150 HESL credentials. Staff hosted the second statewide HESL EdCon conference for school library professionals. The in-person conference included 14 sessions for 189 attendees.

Public Library Leadership



Colorado Public Library
Standards

Colorado State Library

The Public Library Leadership Consultant (PLLC) provided guidance, professional development, and resources to public library directors, trustees, and other library administrators to support the strategic administration of their libraries. Activities included trustee training and resources, updated Colorado Public Library Standards, monthly Hot Topics meetings for directors, and new director orientation throughout the year including an annual forum for New Directors. In collaboration with the Rural and Small Library Consultant, the PLLC consulted with public library leaders on administration, management, and leadership, and provided nine professional development workshops for 588 public library managers and staff.

Adult Services: Programming



The Adult Services consultant provided 28 blended learning opportunities for 672 public library staff. Topics included emerging populations of Spanish-speakers, service to unhoused persons and persons with disabilities, financial health programming and services, and workforce development. The consultant offered a Spanish conversation program for library staff and provided training for serving older adults. To build capacity and strengthen community

networks, the consultant promoted cross-sector partnership opportunities, resource sharing, and collaboration. The consultant administered Check Out Colorado State Parks through an ongoing partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The consultant created a “Stories and Storytelling for Adult Emerging Readers Kit” and a “Let ‘Em Be: Passive Programs for Adults Mini-Kit” which are available for libraries to borrow in support of learning about or facilitating programs for their communities.

Adult Services: Serving Spanish-Speaking Patrons



The Adult Services Consultant facilitated two cohorts of a Spanish learning and conversation community of practice program, Español for Library Folx, for 23 participants. During the program participants attended weekly hourlong sessions with the consultant and a co-facilitator who is a native Spanish speaker from a Colorado public library. Facilitators reviewed basic library vocabulary terms in Spanish and facilitate conversation for beginner to intermediated Spanish speakers. The consultant also provides guidance in one-on-one consultations with library staff on how to replicate the program at their own library.

Rural and Small Library Support



The Rural and Small Library Consultant (RSLC) provided targeted support to small and rural libraries, particularly those with service areas under 2,500. This included one-on-one coaching, training, and resource distribution, such as the Colorado Public Library Factbook.

The State of Colorado launched a telehealth pilot program to increase local access to health services. In a collaborative effort between the Office of eHealth Innovation (OeHI) and the Colorado State Library, 17 rural libraries (representing 24 different branches) were funded to implement initiatives to increase telehealth access for their communities.



Some libraries chose to implement tele-hubs – a private space within the library that patrons can reserve to connect virtually with a healthcare provider or participate in virtual wellness services. These spaces have the equipment and internet connectivity needed to support virtual services, and patrons can get assistance with the technology from library staff. Alternatively, some libraries chose to implement “telehealth kits,” so that patrons who have adequate connectivity at home can borrow the equipment and connect with a provider in the comfort of their home. Each tele-hub and “telehealth kit” includes blood pressure cuffs and scales donated by the American Heart Association.

[The Connect to Health telehealth pilot project website](#) serves three communities: partner organizations, health providers, and libraries. It has a downloadable press kit in Spanish and English, along with graphics and templates for participating public libraries. Between October 2023 and June 2024, the website recorded over 2,000 views from 830 unique users. The downloadable press kit was accessed 240 times, the health providers page was viewed 120 times, and the partnership page was viewed 99 times.

The RSLC also held two 60-minute informational sessions for 240 attendees designed to further participation and implementation by libraries not involved in the pilot program.

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT



Institutional Library Development (ILD) provided leadership and expertise for the 34 Colorado institutional libraries at state-run facilities within the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC), Colorado Division of Youth Services (DYS), Colorado Mental Health Hospitals (CMHH), and Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB).

Training

The ILD team provided virtual and in-person learning and professional development opportunities to institutional staff emphasizing individualized learning needs. Training was provided one to one or a small group with an emphasis on knowledge, skills, and abilities at point-of-need. Topics include essential training in the areas of administration, access services, collection development and management, and patron services and programs. Orientation curriculums using a learning management system were also provided. ILD consultants provided 99 training sessions.

Collection Development

ILD staff selected, ordered, and coordinated receipt of materials purchased for all state-operated facility libraries; donated material was acquired and distributed. They maintained recommendation lists to support facility programs, treatment, and curriculum and provided collection development tools to ensure diverse collections. Reference, video, Spanish-language, illustrated nonfiction, large print materials, and magazines were selected centrally. ILD purchased 11,871 print materials and 1,084 audio/visual materials.



LIBRARY
RESEARCH
SERVICE

Library Research Service (LRS) generates library statistics and research for library and education professionals, public officials, and the media. LRS reports and analyzes statistics on public and academic libraries and conducts studies on major library issues and Colorado State Library (CSL) projects and activities. LRS staff members also share their expertise with the field by providing professional development. These activities serve the larger purpose of teaching and equipping library staff and stakeholders to use data for informed decision making, communicating, and planning.

Networking and Resource Sharing



Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) provides free online access to 4.7 million pages from 790+ newspaper titles published in Colorado from 1859 to 2023. Newspapers within the collection come from throughout the state, and include papers published in English, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Slavic, Serbian, and Swedish. This year the project added 76,358 newspaper issues and 82 new titles to the collection.



Library Jobline connects employers and job seekers in libraries, museums, and other closely related fields. During the reporting year 1,166 jobs were posted and Jobline generated 1,557,562 email notifications to registered job seekers. Registrations for Jobline included 179 new job seekers and 159 new employers.



Resource Kits are bundled tools and materials that enable institutions to provide programming for their communities. Library staff use kits to create programming, test equipment, raise awareness of community social issues, and become more aware of underserved populations and how to work with these patrons more successfully. Eighteen kits were added to the collection on the topics of early learning, virtual reality, fractals, storytelling for adult emerging readers, photography studio, international educational games and card games, and a pop-up STEAM exhibit.



The Book Club Resource expanded with 204 sets including 15 new sets on Native American experiences, 10 new Spanish language sets, and sets covering a variety of genres such as historical, young adult, poetry, and other educational fiction/nonfiction titles. Sets were loaned to Colorado patron libraries for 8 weeks, helping libraries provide book club materials without the burden of acquiring multiple copies of a single title for their own collections. A total of 546 kits and book club sets were loaned during the reporting year.



The Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) provides free library services to the blind and print disabled residents of Colorado. Collections include audio and braille books available through the mail and online, as well as large print books and descriptive videos. Additional services available are online databases, reference and reader advisory services, and online public access to the library's catalog through the KLAS circulation system. CTBL's onsite studio provides recorded books and materials of local interest to supplement the national NLS collection (National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress).



Reader Advisors Provided 17,206 Consultations



**Production & Duplication of
Audio and Braille Materials
67 Items Digitized
58,408 Physical Items Produced**



781,700 Items Circulated



8,135 Items Cataloged



**Collection Development
1,550 Print Materials
69 Audio Materials
32 Databases**

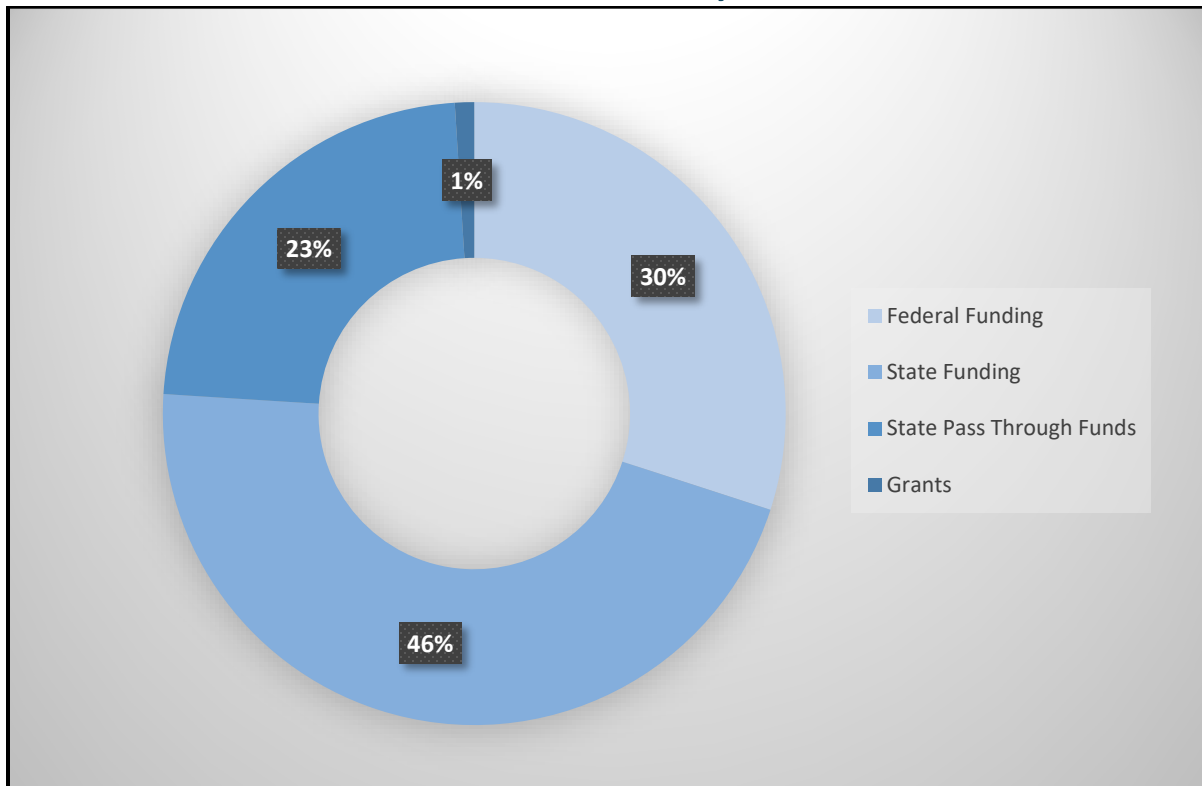
Colorado State Publications Library



The Colorado State Publications Library (COSPL) provides free permanent public access to state publications. COSPL acquires, catalogs, and stores publications produced by all state agencies; distributes publications to depository libraries; and maintains a physical collection, an online library catalog, and a digital repository. Other services provided include original cataloging; creation and maintenance of the original classification code system; subject and quick guides to state government information; blog posts; reference services; and interlibrary loan for state, national, and international requests. These activities provide access to Colorado state government information by maintaining public access to state publications in-person, virtually, and via interlibrary loan, as well as through expert research assistance to patrons statewide.

Library Research Service (LRS) generates library statistics and research for library and education professionals, public officials, and the media. LRS reports and analyzes statistics on public and academic libraries and conducts studies on major library issues and Colorado State Library (CSL) projects and activities. LRS staff members also share their expertise with the field by providing professional development. These activities serve the larger purpose of teaching and equipping library staff and stakeholders to use data for informed decision making, communicating, and planning.

Where Does The Money Come From?



\$10,601,407

Federal Funding 30%

\$3,230,237 – Grants to States Program- Library Services and Technology Act, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

State Funding 46%

\$4,844,716 – State Appropriations for State Library, Colorado Virtual Library, Colorado Taking Book Library; State Grants for Libraries; and Colorado Department of Education General Fund.

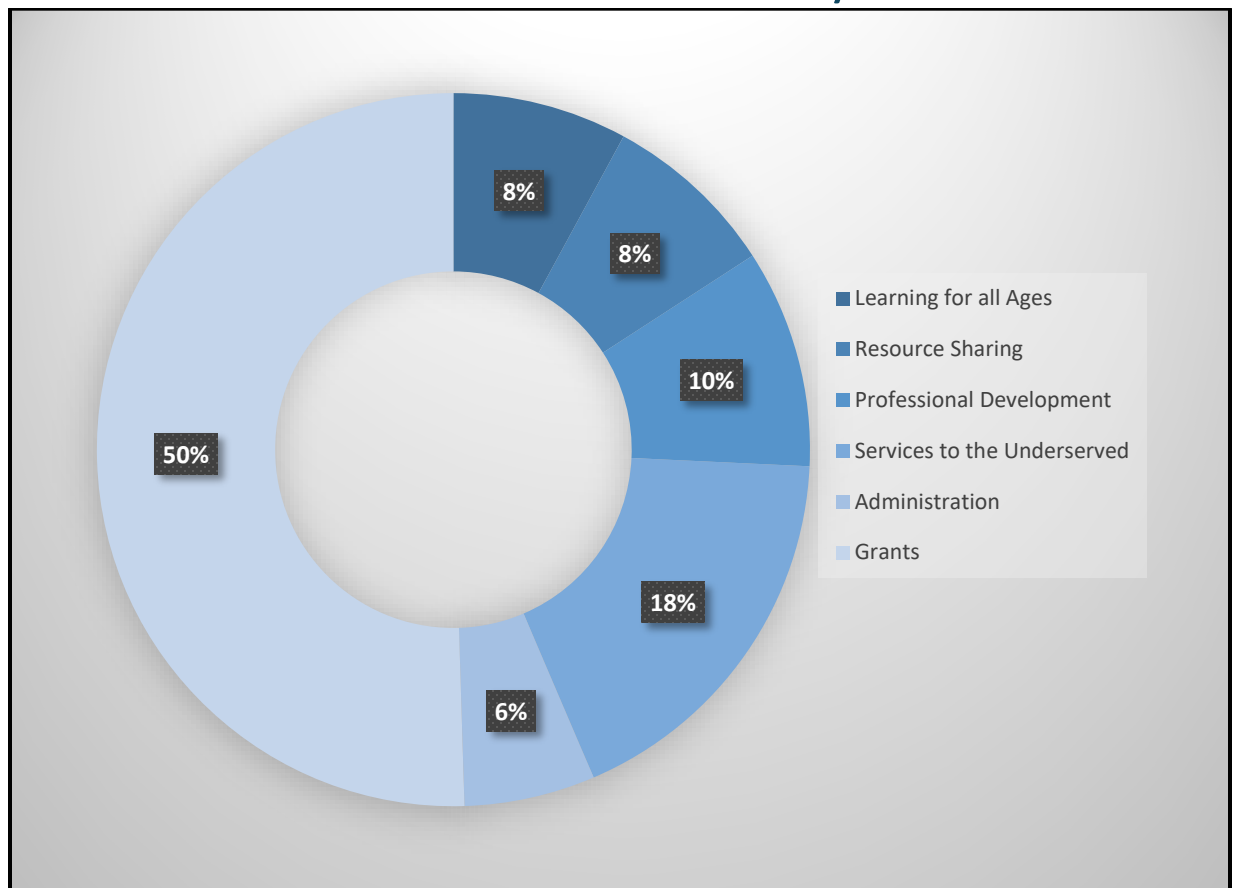
State Pass Through Funding 23%

\$2,422,976 – State Funding Passed via Grants to Colorado Library Consortium, National Federation for the Blind of Colorado, and Audio Information Network. Contractual agreement with the Imagination Library of Colorado.

Grants 1%

\$103,476 – Growing Readers Together funding from Buell Foundation.

Where Does The Money Go?



\$10,601,407

Strategic Goal #1: Learning for all ages 8%

\$845,084 – Projects include: Colorado State Publications Library; Early Literacy Programming; Growing Readers Together; Adult Services; and Colorado Family Literacy Programs.

Strategic Goal #2: Resource Sharing 8%

\$860,453 – Projects include: SWIFT; Colorado Historic Newspapers; Plains to Peaks Collective; Technology and Web Hosting Services; and Annual Surveys and Program Evaluations.

Strategic Goal #3: Professional Development 10%

\$1,029,722 – Projects include: School Library Development; Public Library Leadership Development; and Library Staff Learning and Development.

Strategic Goal #4: Services to the Underserved 18%

\$1,893,281 – Projects include: Institutional Library Program Development; Colorado Talking Book Library; and Resource Kits for Libraries.

Administrative Costs 6%

\$591,982 – Expenditures include those related to the Assistant Commissioner and LSTA Grant Coordinator. Office expenditures include rent for all on-site staff and courier service.

Grants 51%

\$5,380,885 – Grants distributed to Public, School, and Academic libraries through the State Grants for Libraries Program. Grants to the Colorado Library Consortium, National Federation for the Blind of Colorado, Audio Information Network, and contractual agreement with the Imagination Library of Colorado