A Model of Statewide Savings for Connecticut Libraries

Who we are

- The Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) provides over 800 Connecticut libraries - public, K-12 school, college/university, and “special” - with cost savings and professional development through its cooperative purchasing and educational programs.
- Membership is open to any Connecticut library.
- CLC is mandated by Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 11-9e, and is the only multi-type library membership cooperative in Connecticut.
- CLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported via a combination of state grant funds (41%); membership dues (40%); and fees, other grants, and investments (19%).

What we do

- CLC saves Connecticut libraries millions of dollars each year by leveraging the collective buying power of our members. We negotiate discounted prices on a wide variety of library resources and services essential to excellent library service for Connecticut citizens.
- CLC’s statewide contracts for books, non-print media, and supplies enable members to waive their own bidding requirements and realize savings of up to 77% on mission-critical library materials.
- CLC provides low-cost, high-impact library professional development by coordinating over 30 member-driven “roundtables,” where members share knowledge and ideas about professional topics.
- CLC partners with like-minded organizations to offer unique workshops, symposia, and collaborative events, helping librarians improve service to their communities and keep up with the latest professional trends.
- CLC partners with state agencies, businesses, and other non-profits to bring more programs and services to libraries, and to convey the essential role that libraries play in Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns.

Why we’re successful

- CLC member libraries saved over $7.4 million in FY 2016-17 through CLC’s negotiated discounts, group purchasing programs and training.
- Public libraries saved almost $60 for every $1 they invested in CLC in FY 2016-17.
- 1,765 Connecticut library staff benefited from 145 CLC-sponsored free or low-cost professional development programs in FY 2016-17.
- CLC is lean and mean: by employing a small staff that negotiates on behalf of over 800 libraries across the state, we reduce the effort, staff time and cost of purchasing library products and services by individual libraries. In addition, greater discounts are realized by Connecticut libraries thanks to CLC’s large purchasing power.

Why we were created

- CLC was formed in 2003 from the merger of four state-mandated regional “cooperating library service units” (CLSUs). At that time, the four organizations’ boards determined that one statewide cooperative would provide even greater efficiencies and savings to Connecticut’s libraries.
- CLC’s purpose is “to improve library service through coordinated planning, resource sharing, and the development of programs too costly or impractical for a single library to maintain.” (CGS Sec. 11-9e)

Find out more

To find out more about CLC’s activities and plans:
- Visit us online at www.ctlibrarians.org
- Contact Executive Director Jennifer Keohane: jkeohane@ctlibrarians.org or 860.344.8777 x103