Pennsylvania LSTA Programs: Serving Citizens of All Ages

What Do LSTA Funds Support?
In 2015-16, the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Office of Commonwealth Libraries received $5.4 million in LSTA funds to benefit public, school, academic and special libraries in Pennsylvania. LSTA-supported programs were in six categories.

**LSTA Program Categories (2015-16)**

- Online Access to Rare PA Collections ($169,244)
- Adult Services ($330,727)
- Library Staff & Board Training ($501,024)
- School Age & Summer Learning Services ($560,466)
- Early Learning Services ($774,533)
- Broadband & Technology Services ($1,289,914)

How is LSTA Support Provided to Pennsylvania’s Libraries?
In 2015-16, LSTA funds provided both indirect and direct support of library services.

Indirect support consisted of:

1. Services that were shared by all libraries such as online reference or chat services and summer learning program training and materials.

2. Services that were provided to specific, participating libraries such as early learning training and program materials.

Direct support consisted of grants that were made to specific libraries for new or improved services such as MakerSpace equipment or laptops and Wi-Fi hot-spot lending programs.

Who Provides Operational Support of the LSTA Program?
Of the $5.4 million received in LSTA funds, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries used $1.8 million to provide administrative and operational support to libraries.

This support provides staff who:

- Develop, coordinate and evaluate programs;
- Provide professional development, advisory and reporting services;
- Provide outreach and rare collection support for the State Library; and
- Monitor and report on LSTA-supported programs.
Pennsylvania E-Rate Program: Bridging the Digital Divide

What Does the E-Rate Program Support?
In 2015-16, public libraries located in 60 Pennsylvania counties submitted applications for high-speed telecommunications lines and Internet services costing a total of $6,114,339.

For those services, the E-Rate program committed to reimbursing libraries up to $4,007,606 — an average discount of 66%.

Without the E-Rate program, public libraries would not be able to offer citizens high-speed broadband services to connect to the Internet.

Is There Really a Digital Divide?
- Roughly three in 10 adults with household incomes below $30,000 a year don’t own a smartphone. Nearly half don’t have home broadband services or a traditional computer.¹
- A majority of lower-income Americans are not tablet owners. By comparison, many of these devices are nearly ubiquitous among adults from households earning $100,000 or more a year.¹
- 203,000 people in Pennsylvania don’t have any wired internet providers available where they live.²

¹http://pewrsr.ch/2nB4eSF
²http://broadbandnow.com/Pennsylvania

How is the E-Rate Program Funded?
As required by the 1996 Telecom Act, telecommunications carriers providing international and interstate service that earn above certain revenue thresholds are required to invest a percentage of their profits into a fund that ensures all citizens may access the Internet.

Consumers may notice a universal service line item on their telephone bills. This line represents a charge by a telephone company to recover its FCC-mandated universal service contributions.