

Maryland State Library Agency 2022 Annual Report



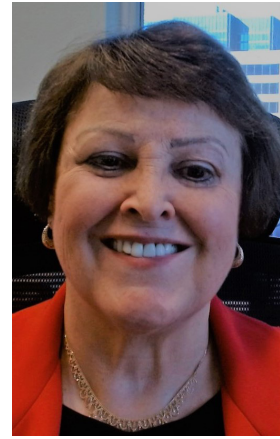
— Maryland —
State Library
Agency

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Message from the State Librarian

IRENE PADILLA
STATE LIBRARIAN



Irene Padilla, State Librarian

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) celebrated its fifth year as an independent agency! This milestone year has been a significant one for the agency and for Maryland libraries. Historic funding through the American Rescue Plan Act created opportunities for libraries to reimagine their services beyond the branches; the ability to come together in-person fostered connections and partnerships that benefit all Marylanders; and, as always, communities were at the center of our work.

We are proud to report that in Fiscal Year 2022:

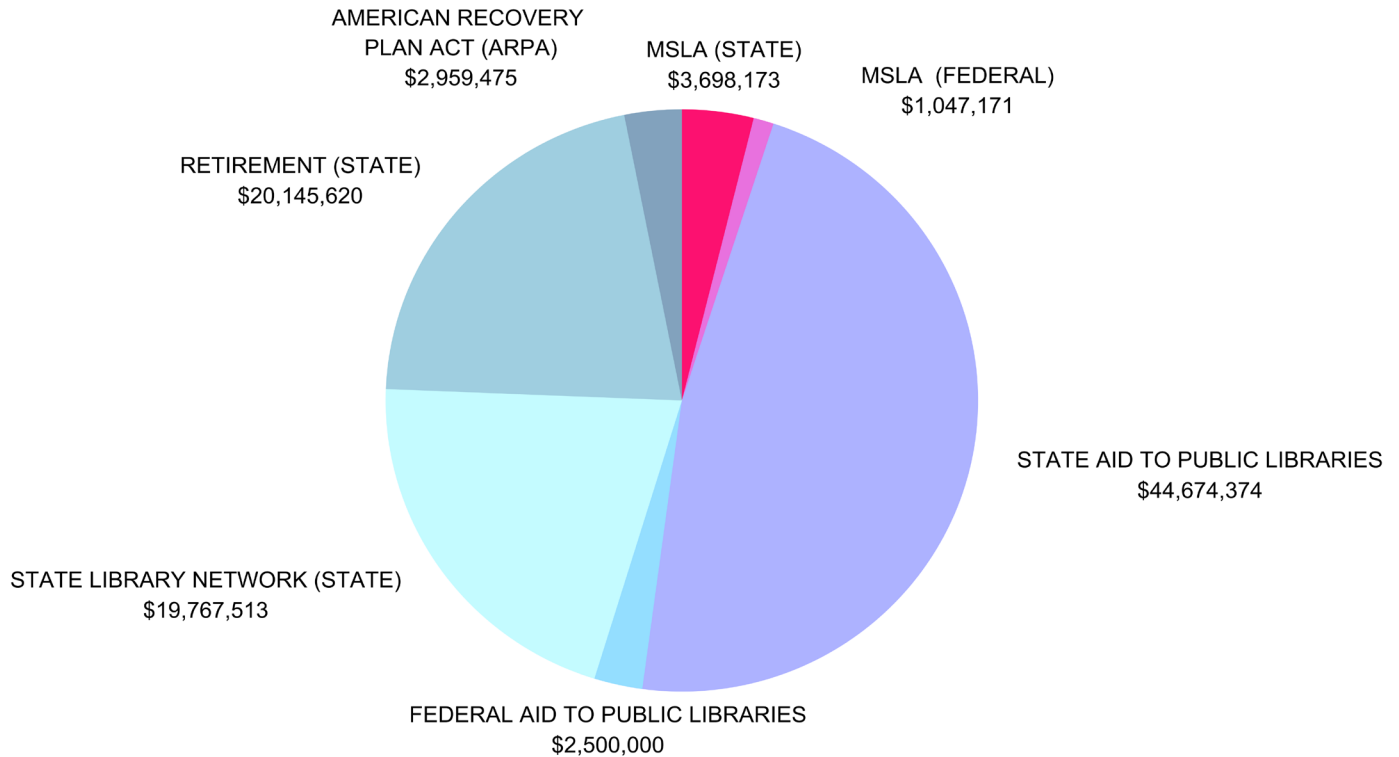
- The annual mandate for the **County Public Library Capital Grants Program** was increased from \$5 million to \$7.5 million during the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly. This became effective in FY 2022.
- The formula for the **County Public Library Capital Grants Program** state share was adjusted so that counties such as Garrett can more fully participate in the program to support facility renovation and construction.
- Maryland continues to be a national leader on issues such as **legislation requiring publishers to make e-books and other digital literary content available to consumers at a reasonable cost**. While this landmark legislation was ultimately struck down on appeal, Maryland libraries are at the head of a growing chorus of voices around the country working to provide access to in-demand e-material while being good stewards of public funds.
- The Office of Statewide Broadband has convened the **Maryland Broadband State Agency Collaboration Workgroup** to include representatives from Maryland's library community in this important effort.
- Public library directors and their boards worked with consultants to produce a **Library Board Effectiveness Report**, which provides guidance on serving the needs and interests of the community to ensure that Maryland's libraries maintain their status as 21st-century libraries.
- Public libraries in Maryland can now make all computers, public and staff, accessible to those who are blind or have low vision through the purchase of **Fusion licenses**.

- The Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) hosted the Office of the Inspector General, United States Postal Service (USPS), to discuss service delays with the delivery of **Free Matter materials**. Inspectors visited LBPD and the central post office that serves the library to review their procedures for processing Free Matter and address concerns.
- MSLA, in partnership with the MD Department of Veterans Affairs, was awarded the **Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award** for Serving Those Who Served – a public library program to expand outreach to veterans and library personnel education in Maryland.
- MSLA funded approximately **\$2 million in statewide Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** grants focusing on staff training and development, as well as key initiatives to support essential library services to communities.
- The Agency received approximately **\$3.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funds to support Maryland’s libraries in providing services beyond the branches, reimagining library spaces, addressing digital equity, and more.
- MSLA continued its focus on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** through programs that highlighted racial equity and the development of an organizational culture in which everyone thrives.
- MSLA produced the second **Maryland Libraries Cultures Conference**, which focused on preparing staff for intellectual freedom challenges.
- The statewide programming initiative, **Maryland Libraries Together**, continues to leverage the collaborative nature of libraries in order to engage the communities that libraries serve in enriching educational experiences that advance an understanding of the issues of our time.
- Using funds from the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five from the Maryland State Department of Education, MSLA is working with Mother Goose on the Loose to develop the **Hatchlings program, which provides resources to expectant and new parents to encourage a love of reading.**
- MSLA continues to support **Summer Reading Programs** across the state. This year’s theme is “Oceans of Possibilities,” a perfect opportunity to welcome our new programming partners, the National Aquarium and the Maryland State Fair.

MISSION

The mission of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is to provide leadership and consultation in technology, training, marketing, funding, resource sharing, research, and planning so that Maryland libraries can fulfill their missions now and in the future for the people of Maryland.

BUDGET 2022



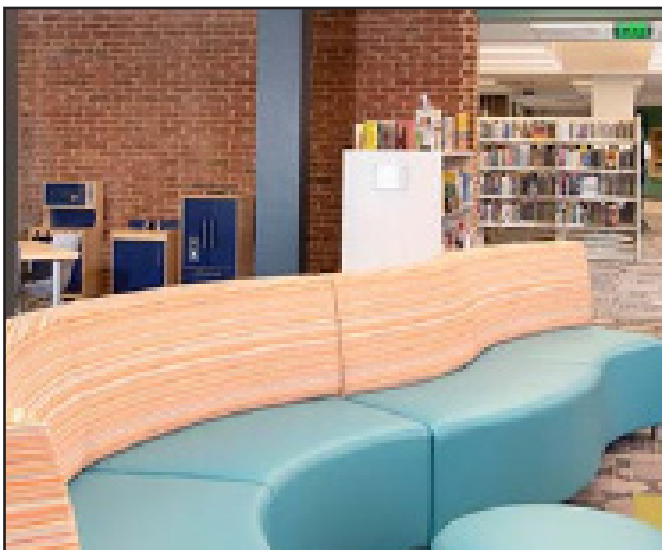
The Maryland State Library Agency administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources and programs and to provide excellent customer service. MSLA Headquarters and the Public Libraries and State Networking Branch funding includes a combination of state and federal funds. State funds support the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library, Maryland’s Public Libraries, and the State Library Network, composed of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) and three regional libraries (the Eastern Shore Regional Library, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, and the Western Maryland Regional Library), as well as programs to facilitate interlibrary loan and the Library Associates Training Institute (LATI). In addition, the Enoch Pratt Free Library receives supplemental state funding for increased operating hours.

\$3.2M

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support Maryland’s libraries in providing services beyond the branches.

CAPITAL GRANTS

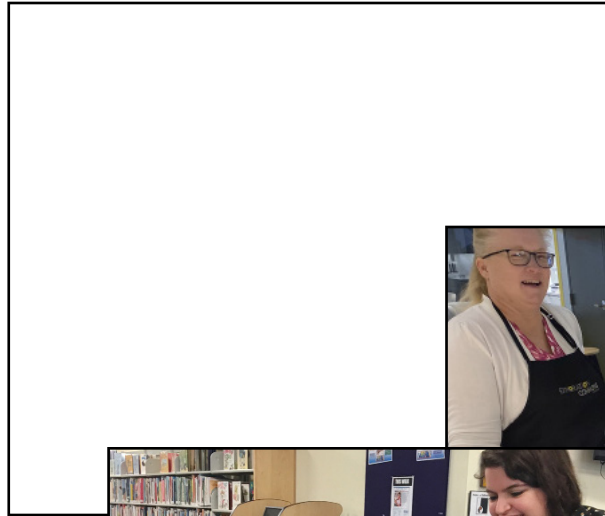
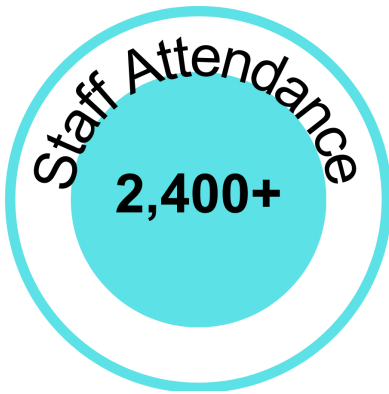
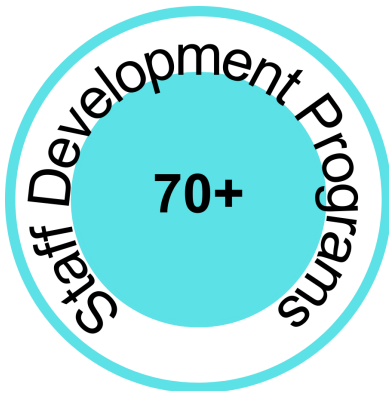
Maryland's County Public Library Capital Grants Program mandates that \$7.5 million be included in the state budget every year for the renovation, expansion and construction of public library facilities. Goals of the program include geographic diversity in the distribution of awards and a wealth-based match formula to encourage local jurisdictions to fund urgent and necessary public library development across the state. Since FY 2008, \$74,825,000 has been authorized, which generated an estimated \$365,000,000 in local matching funds. This program has funded not only important renovations but also opened an astounding 19 new libraries. Three new state-of-the-art library facilities are currently underway in Anne Arundel (Riviera Beach), Calvert (Twin Beaches), and Frederick (Middletown) Counties with support from the state.



Top Row: (L) Exploration Commons - Carroll County Public Library, (R) Kent Island Branch - Queen Anne's County Library. Bottom Row: (L) Reistertown - Baltimore County Public Library, (R) Hampden Branch - Enoch Pratt Free Library.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND STATE NETWORKING BRANCH

The Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB) provides technical assistance and direction to improve public library services across the state. PLSNB supports staff development activities and administers federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to support programs and initiatives in libraries statewide.



\$2M+

in federal LSTA funds distributed to libraries to support staff development, EDI initiatives, technology and WiFi hotspot lending, and more.

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

The Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) serves eligible Marylanders with free access to books and magazines in audio, printed braille, electronic braille and large print formats. LBPD also assists college students in obtaining accessible textbooks, teaches patrons to use assistive technology, and hosts programs and events.



Collection & Circulation


- **Consistently topped 22,000 in monthly circulation** as new formats like multi-book cartridges and electronic braille expanded access.
- Resumed in-person studio recording of Marylandia materials. **250 LBPD-produced books** are available on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.

Library Events & Programs

- Met **813 patrons at 144 programs, classes, and events**
- Introduced **podcasts**, including blog posts and full-length topical programming
- Featured **accessible astronomy** activities for youth around the NASA Webb Space Telescope launch

Maryland Accessible Textbook Program

- Served **72 college and university students**
- Converted **3,570 textbook and Open Educational Resources chapters**



LBPD monthly circulation topped

22,000

throughout the year due to increased access to customized Books on Demand cartridges, each downloaded with multiple audiobooks or electronic braille books.

PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS



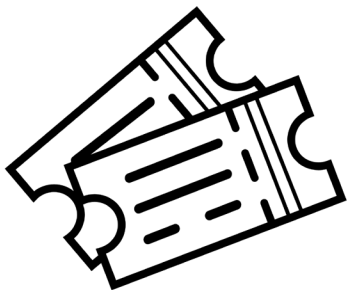
LIBRARY CARDS

3M+



ITEMS BORROWED

46M+



**LIBRARY EVENT
ATTENDEES**

606K+



LIBRARY BRANCHES

190+



QUESTIONS ASKED

3M+



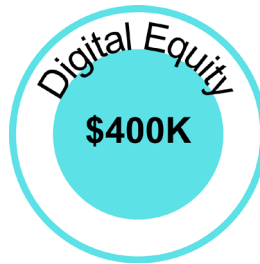
LIBRARY VISITS

4M+

Note: Latest available data is from FY2021.

HIGHLIGHTING MARYLAND LIBRARIES

ARPA Funding



\$3.2 million in ARPA funds were used to support the following initiatives:

- **Services Beyond the Library:** \$1.7 million to support the purchase or refurbishment of 14 mobile units across the state
- **Reimagining Library Spaces and Services:** \$620,000 to update library spaces in 7 library systems
- **Addressing Digital Equity:** \$400,000 to 5 library systems to address digital inequity
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:** \$260,000 to 4 library systems to look at ways to improve and promote EDI
- **Infrastructure:** \$220,000 to support projects around the state to enhance infrastructure





Spotlight on Mobile Libraries

Much of the historic ARPA funding is being used to bring essential services to Marylanders through mobile library units. Ranging from classic outreach vans to book bikes to fully equipped STEAM labs that can serve many customers at once, these vehicles will not only deliver traditional library services beyond the branches but will also serve as key community connectors. Vehicles are meant to reach those who cannot access library branches, whether

due to transportation or other barriers, historically marginalized communities, rural communities of migrant workers, and children from vulnerable communities. Target audiences also include new and potential library customers – some of these vehicles are intended to operate via a “pop-up” model that engages residents where they are, whether at grocery stores, farmer’s markets, fairs, etc.

Almost all vehicles will serve as mobile WiFi access points in the community, with the goal of making this vital service available in places where it is lacking. Additionally, staffed vehicles will engage in programming in partnership with outside entities, such as health or social services departments, providing wrap-around services to residents who need them most. Many vehicles will also provide delivery of materials, technology for loan or use on-board, and a “library of things.” Uniquely, some vehicles will be used for technology and digital literacy education, citizenship classes, workforce development assistance, STEAM/Maker labs, and homework help for young customers.



PHOTOS FROM ACROSS MARYLAND LIBRARIES



Allegany County Library System



Queen Anne's County Library



Carroll County Public Library



Talbot County Free Library



Howard County Library System



Baltimore County Public Library



Enoch Pratt Free Library



Cecil County Public Library



Anne Arundel County Public Library



Kent County Public Library



St. Mary's County Library



Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County



Worcester County Library



Somerset County Library



Washington County Free Library



Charles County Public Library



Caroline County Public Library



Frederick County Public Libraries



Calvert Library



Wicomico Public Libraries



Dorchester County Public Library



Montgomery County Public Libraries



Harford County Public Library



Prince George's County Memorial Library System

Maryland State Library Board:

Sharan Marshall	Chair
James H. Fish	Member at Large
Sharon Maneki	Member at Large
Al Martin	Library Trustee
Wilson Parran	Member at Large
Lynn Wheeler	Vice Chair
Robert Windley	Member at Large

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Mary Anne Bowman	President, Maryland Library Association (MLA)
Lawrence E. Clemens	President, Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)
Heidi Daniel	President/CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL)
Laura Hicks	MSDE Representative, K-12 School Libraries
Keith Marzullo	Dean, College of Information Studies, UMD
Brittany Tignor	Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY AGENCY (MSLA) REPRESENTATIVE

Irene Padilla	State Librarian
John Owen	Director, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
Tamar Sarnoff	Director, Public Libraries and State Networking Branch



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