

LIBRARIES ARE EVERYWHERE



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



— Maryland —
State Library
Agency

Table of Contents

Message from the Maryland State Librarian.....3

Public Libraries at a Glance & Legislative Session.....4

Capital Grants.....5

Public Libraries, SLRC & LATI.....6

Mobile Libraries Summer Reading Road Trip.....7

Libraries Everywhere.....8

Spotlight On: Carrie Sanders - LJ Mover & Shaker.....9

MSLA Continuing Education.....10

Highlighting Maryland Libraries - LSTA Grants 2024-2025.....11-12

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled.....13

LBPDP, MAT and Deaf Culture Digital Library.....14

Budget.....15

Front cover, photos, L-R:
Young library customer at Howard County Library System, Montgomery County Public Libraries music event, Prince George’s County Memorial Library System art award, Maryland State Librarian, Morgan Miller, threw out the first pitch for the Orioles baseball team during Reading Night at Camden Yards.

Maryland State Library Agency Staff, 2025



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.



Message from the State Librarian

Morgan Lehr Miller

Dear Marylanders,

Wherever you go in Maryland, a library is never far away. From the rolling hills of Western Maryland to the shores of the Eastern Shore, libraries are everywhere — serving, supporting, and connecting our communities in more ways than ever before.

Today's libraries are community anchors, technology hubs, job training sites, makerspaces, meeting places, homework help centers, and safe spaces for people of all ages. Whether you're in a bustling suburb or a quiet rural town, your library is there for you— offering resources that educate, inspire, and empower.

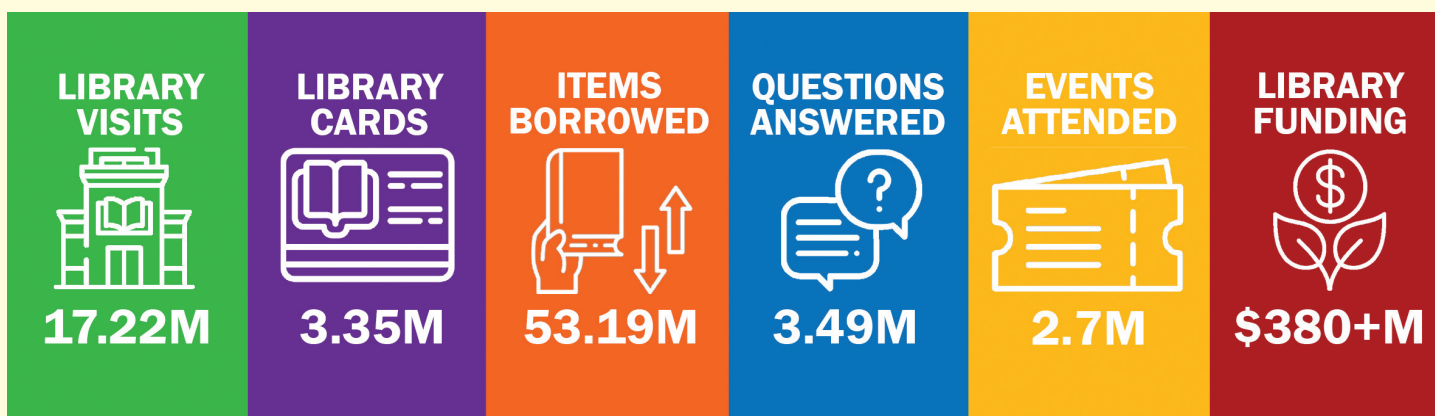
You see libraries at community festivals, farmers markets, and civic events. Bookmobiles and mobile learning labs bring the library to your doorstep. Digital library resources let you borrow books, stream films and music, attend virtual programs, do research, and get homework help — 24/7, from wherever you are. No matter where or how you encounter libraries, they are embedded deeply into the fabric of all our lives. And what's more, libraries ensure that every resident- regardless of age, ability, or income- has access to information and opportunity.

This year, we celebrate the theme “Libraries Are Everywhere” because it speaks to the reality we live every day: Libraries aren't just in one place. They're in every place. They move with us, grow with us, and meet us where we are — physically and virtually.

Thank you for supporting your libraries and the incredible people who work in them. Wherever you go in Maryland, your library goes with you.

Morgan Lehr Miller

Maryland Public Libraries At-A-Glance* - 2024



*Most recent data is from 2024

2025 Legislative Session



L-R: Tamar Sarnoff (MSLA), American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Mandi Wolfe, Brandt Von Unen (DCDL), Ricardo Lopez (Coordinator of Library Media at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf), Morgan Miller (State Librarian), ASL Interpreters Nolan Jones and Mayra Watson.

Governor Wes Moore and the Maryland General Assembly this spring passed legislation that will benefit Marylanders for years to come.

Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library

Delegate Ryan Spiegel and Senator Nancy King spearheaded legislation that secures \$450,000 in State funding annually for the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) - a one-of-a-kind resource for Maryland's 1.2 million Deaf or hard-of-hearing residents. Use of the library has increased in recent years as the library's collections, programs, and resources have grown. With dedicated funding to meet these rising costs, the library can continue to deliver innovative services and operate effectively.

Family Literacy Program Pilot

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr and Senator Alonzo Washington led the charge on legislation that establishes a Family Literacy Program Pilot. MSLA is developing the program, which will give Marylanders incarcerated at four State correctional facilities the opportunity to be recorded reading children's books for their children or grandchildren. Those recordings and copies of the books will then be sent to those family members, ultimately improving literacy skills and strengthening family bonds. MSLA is partnering with the Maryland Department of Corrections and Public Safety and the Department of Labor on the program.

Capital Grants: State Funding Helps Expand Library Services

Since MSLA's County Library Capital Grant Program began in 2008, approximately \$500 million in State, local and private funds have been distributed to build new public libraries, renovate old ones and pay for myriad capital improvement projects across the state. The Maryland Board of Public Works in June approved more than \$7.2 million in funding for eight new library projects to be funded in part through the Capital Grant Program, including construction of three new libraries where no branches exist today: West Frederick in Frederick County, Clarksburg in Montgomery County and Park Heights in Baltimore City. The Capital Grant Program has funded projects in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

In March, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County broke ground on a new branch in Friendsville. The branch, supported by more than \$4 million in County Library Capital Grant funds, will replace an old, temporary structure and ensure residents of northwestern Garrett County have access to a beautiful, modern facility. Late last summer, the Catonsville Library in Baltimore County reopened after a lengthy renovation that turned the facility into a state-of-the-art space for all members of the community.

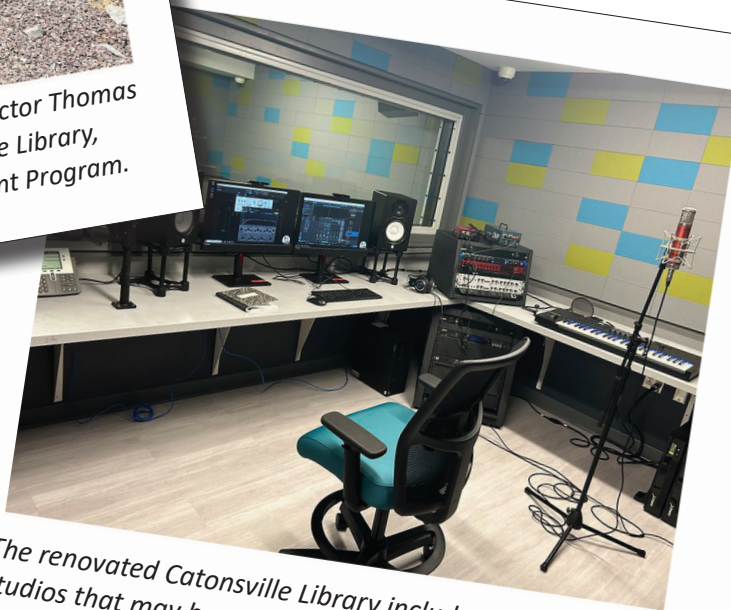


The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County Director Thomas Vose looks over the site of the new Friendsville Library, funded by MSLA's County Library Capital Grant Program.

The
Ruth Enlow Library
of GARRETT COUNTY



**BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



The renovated Catonsville Library includes recording studios that may be reserved and musical instruments that may be borrowed.

Public Libraries

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) partners with Maryland's 24 public library systems to deliver programs, resources, materials and information to communities across the state. Marylanders use the state's 192 public libraries in a variety of ways, from traditional services like book and computer access to more modern offerings like maker spaces, technology training and financial literacy classes. MSLA also offers many training programs to library professionals, which help them develop skills to most effectively serve library customers.



Maryland State Library Resource Center

In partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL), MSLA provides significant funding to operate the Maryland State Library Resource Center (SLRC). SLRC provides cooperative, cost-effective services to public, academic, school and special library customers across the state that enrich Maryland libraries and empower an educated and informed public. In FY 2025, SLRC experienced impressive growth across several key programs:

- 314,631 items borrowed through Interlibrary Loan

- 382,223 in-person visits to SLRC
- 2,625,909 total circulation for SLRC/Enoch Pratt Free Library, an increase of 8.6% over FY24
- 82,248 SLRC online sessions in FY25, an increase of 28% over FY24
- 161 trainings and public programs attended by 7,764 library workers and members of the public

Digital Maryland:

- 976,068 page views in FY25, an increase of 43% over FY24
- 2,918 downloads in FY25, an increase of 4% over FY24
- 20,872 total items added in FY25, an increase of 73% over FY24

Library Associate Training Institute

Over the past five years, 1,061 Maryland public library professionals have graduated from the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI), including 245 graduates in FY 2025. The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) provides funding for LATI, which gives Maryland public library associates the opportunity to complete 90 hours of required in-service training within the first two years of their appointment to a library associate position. Library associates are required to complete this training to participate in the Maryland State Retirement System.

Mobile Libraries: 2025 Summer Reading Road Trip

In the summer of 2025, the Maryland State Library Agency embarked on its first ever Summer Reading Road Trip. The goal? To visit mobile libraries in action as they delivered programs and services to communities across the state.



This year's Summer Reading theme was "Color Our World." Along with incentive-based reading programs for all age levels, libraries provided an array of activities, events and programs. Mobile libraries delivered those programs and resources to their communities. While data from 2025 is not yet available, more than 143,000 youth participated in Maryland summer library programs in 2024, up from 96,000 in 2023.

Public Libraries Everywhere

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) works with community organizations as they support children in some of Maryland's most underserved communities, ultimately enhancing early-childhood literacy skills, fostering parent-child interaction and better preparing young learners for school. All of these goals align with the Moore-Miller Administration's priorities to end childhood poverty, set students up for success and to create an equitable, robust and competitive economy.

Schools

A vast majority of Maryland public library systems have formed partnerships with their local school systems, whether through mobile services and outreach, resource sharing or access to materials. In a fall 2024 survey, 75% of Maryland public library systems reported having a partnership with their local system that allows students to use school ID cards for access to public library databases, collections and resources.



Young Readers

The Maryland Governor's Young Readers Program - a partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library that provides a free book every month to children 5 and under - continues to grow across the state. As of the summer of 2025, more than 52,500 children throughout Maryland were enrolled in the program, including more than 6,500 in Baltimore City. Prince George's County led the state with more than 17,000 participants.

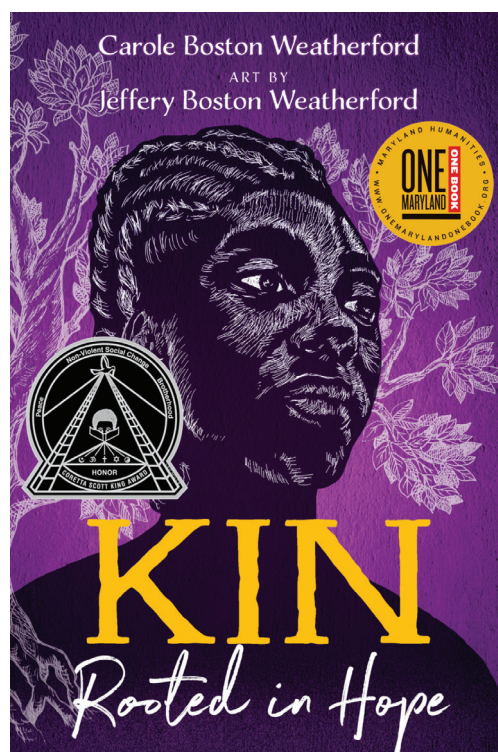
One Maryland One Book

MSLA partners with Maryland Humanities to lead One Maryland One Book - a

statewide book club that brings Marylanders together to read, discuss and celebrate a new book each year. The program fosters a love of reading and improves literacy skills among participants. The 2025 theme is What We Collect/What We Tell and features the novel "Kin: Rooted in Hope" by Carole Boston Weatherford, with art by Jeffery Boston Weatherford.



Enoch Pratt Free Library staff member Tam Jones, right, works with kids at a community center this summer.



Spotlight On: Carrie Sanders Library Journal Mover & Shaker



Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) Youth Services Coordinator Carrie Sanders in May was honored as a 2025 Library Journal Mover & Shaker. She joined 49 others from across the country to earn this prestigious award. They were recognized for their innovation and creativity, and for helping improve their libraries and communities.

“It is truly an honor to be acknowledged as a 2025 Mover & Shaker for work that I love to do,” Sanders said. “Throughout my career as a public and school librarian, it has been my passion to help children and teens develop a love of reading and learning, and to support teachers or library colleagues in their engagement with youth and families.”

Sanders leads year-round coordination efforts that support public library summer reading programs and works on a range of projects that support youth and Emerging Adults. One of her most impactful projects was the Hatchlings program, which created interactive classes for expectant parents and families with newborns to teach them the importance of reading, singing and talking with their babies daily to support early literacy development. She also partners with the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families to train library staff to support

service members, veterans and military families.

Among her many other duties, Sanders coordinates and leads professional development training for library staff throughout the year. This spring, Sanders led the Emerging Adults Summit, which brought together more than 70 library professionals, public officials, workforce development leaders and other partners to focus on how to best serve customers during the transitional years when they are 18 to 29 years old. With Sanders’ Library Journal recognition, MSLA is proud to have among its ranks three Movers & Shakers. LaShawn Myles (2024) and Nini Beegan (2021) were named Movers & Shakers for supporting and leading Maryland’s libraries with innovative services, training opportunities and other statewide initiatives.



MOVERS & SHAKERS 2025

THE PEOPLE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

Sanders leading a conversation at the Emerging Adult Conference held at the Elkridge branch of the Howard County Library System. Emerging Adults refers to library customers aged 18-29, a demographic that is challenged by daunting challenges as they navigate adulthood.



MSLA Management Associate Carlotta Davis manages registration at Tech Connect.



A tech team from Washington County Public Schools shared a technology learning tool at Tech Connect called SUNO AI: A Musical Tool for Enhanced Learning.

MSLA Continuing Education for Library Staff

MSLA offers a variety of training programs, including MD Tech Connect, which provides library professionals with the latest information on emerging technologies, trends and best practices. The 10th Annual MD Tech Connect in December 2024 focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI). To build on this timely topic, MSLA offered webinars all year related to AI and uses for social media, teens and AI, and training on best AI practices in the workplace.

MSLA created programs in mentoring and coaching for Maryland public library leaders. Training was provided to library workers enrolled in the LATI program to learn best practices for serving children and teens in the public library as a Library Associate. In an effort to have all Maryland counties receive funds from the federal E-Rate program, which reimburses schools and libraries for Internet connectivity and hardware, MSLA employs E-Rate consultants that offer webinars and support all year.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, MSLA received \$1.7 million in federal Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) funds that were distributed to public libraries to support staff development, digital equity, community collaboration, infrastructure and lifelong learning.



Highlighting Maryland Libraries

Competitive Library Service & Technology Act Grant Awards 2024-25



Baltimore County Public Library, Long Term Device Lending

For better connectivity, grant funds were used to purchase chromebooks and WiFi hotspots for lending. The loaned computers and hotspots allow library customers to complete homework, job applications, as well as for sending emails and pursuing lifelong learning

Charles County Public Library, Enhancing Trade Education

Charles County Public Library purchased software to provide users with the opportunity to train online and obtain certification in trades. The software, SkillMill, guided library users through online training in HVAC Systems, Job Site Supervision, and Math for Electricians.

Frederick County Public Libraries, Understanding Artificial Intelligence

To help the community understand Artificial Intelligence, Frederick County Public Libraries created a free public event with an expert speaker, Kashmir Hill. Library staff researched ways to use AI to gain efficiencies in the workplace.

Howard County Library System, Libraries and AI: Enhancing Services

Howard County Library System (HCPL) used grant funds to educate library staff about Artificial Intelligence (AI) so that they may be better able to pass along learning and knowledge to library customers. HCPL also held a free community discussion where local experts talked about how they are using AI for better water reclamation, tracking wildlife in urban areas, and in education.

Howard County Library System, Seed Library

In partnership with the Howard County Master Gardener's program, the Seed Library Project offered classes and free seeds so that library customers could learn to create gardens and grow their own food to promote healthier lifestyles and food choices.

Kent County Public Library, Cultivating Community

To make gardening more available to all, Kent County Public Library created programming to introduce library customers to container gardening. The programming partnered with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and included seed swaps, landscaping, bulb planting, and terrariums for young people and intergenerational groups.



Seed swap at Kent County Public Library

Queen Anne's County Library, Providing Free Health Product

Queen Anne's County Library created a program in partnership with the local health department that provided free health products in all restrooms.

St. Mary's County Library, Family Makerspace

To promote intergenerational learning, St. Mary's County Library designed programming to entice families to take classes in 3-D printing, preserving family memories and a variety of art classes.

Talbot County Free Library, Sensory Friendly Spaces

The goal of the Sensory Friendly Spaces project was to make the library more inviting to young people with sensory issues. Talbot County Free Library created a welcoming space by lowering lighting and offering interactive music programs for families.



Turtle Dance Music program at Talbot County Free Library.



Family at St. Mary's County Library's family makerspace program.

Wicomico Public Library, Memory Labs

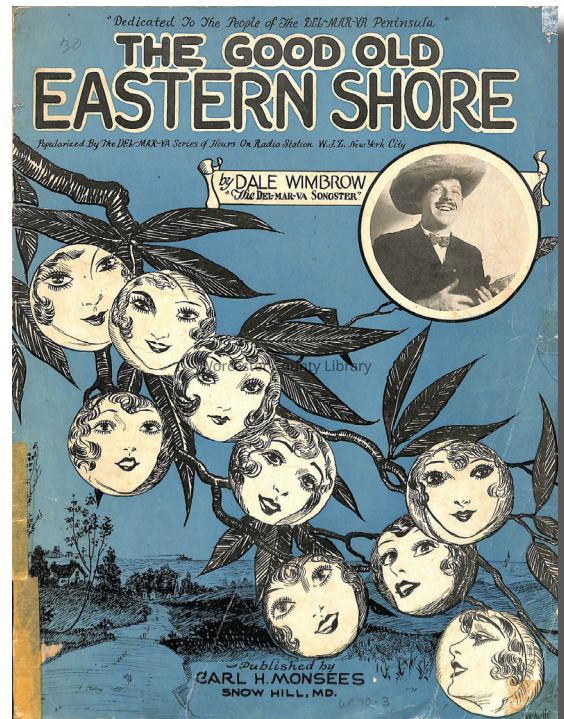
As technology ages, family memories may be lost on zip drives or old VHS tapes. Wicomico Public Libraries created a dedicated space with equipment to convert older formats of media into modern accessible items to promote digital preservation of family photos, film, and history.

Worcester County Library, Heritage Project

To help celebrate America's upcoming 250th anniversary, Worcester County

Library created three videos that help to tell the story of what the region was like before settlers and early settlement, along with history resources available in the library system. One resource includes sheet music from Peter Dale Wimbrow— an American composer, musician, writer and radio personality born in Whaleyville, Maryland in 1895.

Several Maryland counties including **Carroll County Public Library, Calvert Library, and Prince George's County Memorial Library System** completed Strategic Plans with LSTA funds. Strategic plans are important for library systems for best uses of resources, anticipating trends, and making sure that library plans align with library goals.



Sheet music for a song by Worcester County native, Peter Dale Wimbrow.

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

— That All May Read —



Audrey Naiva of Baltimore Clayworks leads a program on creating with clay at LBPDP.

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPDP) provides comprehensive accessible library services to residents of every county in the state. LBPDP distributes books in digital audio and Braille in print and electronic formats, and connects with innovative programming, assistive technology training, textbook conversion for college students and locally recorded materials in an accessible format. LBPDP also partners with public libraries, correctional facility libraries, academic libraries and school libraries to promote accessibility and raise awareness of its services.

Patrons & Collection FY25

- 6,772 active registered users
- 474 new patrons
- 364,661 items circulated
- 370 locally produced titles on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD)
- 8,296 braille books in electronic and printed braille formats

LBPDP Highlights

- National Library Service (NLS) launched the DA2, a new digital talking book machine with WiFi access to BARD and bluetooth access for accessories.
- 1,781 patrons attended 450 programs, events and assistive technology classes including:
 - Tactile tours of the Maryland Natural History Museum in Baltimore and the Guinness Open Gate Brewery in Halethorpe
 - Virtual hike of the Hundred Acre Wood in April 2025 with video tours, a scone-making demonstration, and a virtual tea party.
 - Monthly Technology User Groups featuring Master Chef Christine Ha, iPhone features and apps, Blind Industries and Services of Maryland and other community partners, and the BARD Alexa Skill.

- MSLA staff recorded Black-Eyed Susan Award nominated titles, making them available for blind and print-disabled students to participate in selecting the award winners.
- Computer accessibility tools including JAWS and ZoomText are available on computers in 12 public library systems through a partnership with Vispero.
- The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program provided 54 students at Maryland universities and colleges with 1,082 chapters of textbooks and Open Educational Resource (OER) materials in accessible formats including MS Word, MP3, ePub, accessible PDF and braille.
- LBPD collaborated with the State Library Resource Center on its Spring Conference that focused on Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion in Libraries (DIAL). Staff from libraries across the state discussed creating inclusive programs and spaces, raising awareness with community partners, and supporting staff with disabilities.

“The DIAL Conference truly reflects the commitment of Maryland librarians to continue the vital dialogue surrounding inclusion and accessibility within our libraries.”

~ LaShawn Myles, LBPD Youth Services Librarian

Deaf Culture Digital Library



Legislation was approved this year to secure more much-needed annual funding for the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

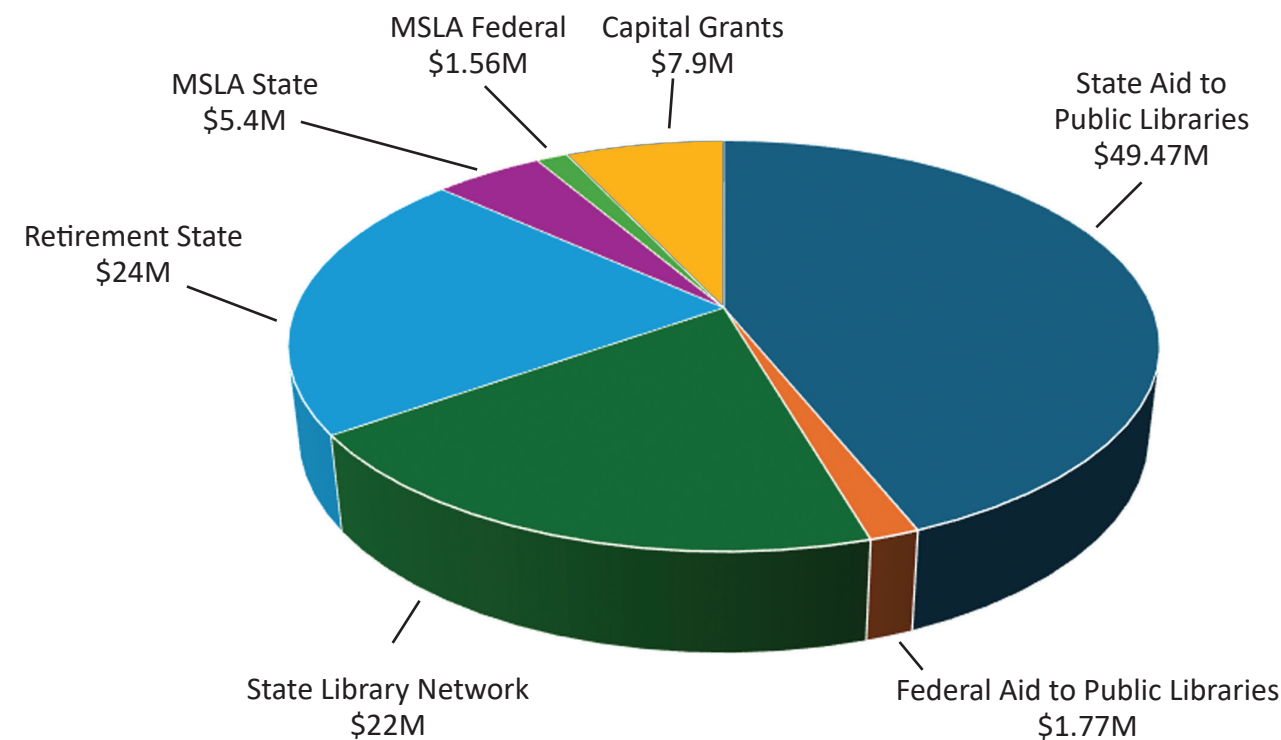


MARYLAND DEAF CULTURE
DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) continues to grow and adapt to meet the needs of the state's deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The DCDL website, the core resource for the program, functions as a digital library, resource center, information hub and connector for other organizations and entities. DCDL added 91 digital titles and saw an 8 percent increase in online visits over the past year. The library also developed an innovative catalog focusing on Deaf content creators, a statewide community/event calendar and improved user experience for finding resources.

With a dedicated source of funding approved this year by the Maryland General Assembly, DCDL will continue to provide Maryland's deaf and hard-of-hearing community with new programs, resources, events, training opportunities and webinars.

Budget 2025



The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) administers State and Federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs and customer service. State funds support the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) and each of Maryland’s 24 public library systems. These funds also support the Maryland 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 Associate Training Institute (LATI). In addition, the Enoch Pratt Free Library receives supplemental State funding for increased operating hours.



Maryland State Library Board

Kristen Pironis, Chair, Member at Large

Mychelle Farmer, Vice-Chair

Wilson Parran, Member at Large

Lynn Wheeler, Professional Librarian

Melissa Riccobono, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Nicholas Brown, Member at Large

Stephen Schutte, Library Trustee

Ex Officio Members

Teonja Jung, President, Maryland Library Association

Bea Hardy, President, Congress of Academic Library Directors

Chad Helton, CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Keith Marzullo, Dean, University of Maryland College of Information Studies

Brittany Tignor, Maryland Association of School Librarians

Kimberly Cowles, MSDE Representative

MSLA Representatives

Morgan Lehr Miller, Maryland State Librarian

John Owen III, Director, Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Tamar Sarnoff, PhD, Director, Public Libraries and State Networking Branch

📞 (667) 219-4800

📄 (667) 219-4798

📧 md.statelibrary@maryland.org

🖥️ msla.maryland.gov

📍 25 S. Charles St., Suite 1310
Baltimore, MD 21201

Follow us on Social Media!

- [Facebook](#)
- [X](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Bluesky](#)



Maryland
State Library
Agency



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.