



Maryland  
**State Library**

— 2020 —  
**Maryland State Library  
Annual Report**

25 S. Charles St., Suite 1310  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
T: 667.219.4800  
[www.marylandlibraries.org](http://www.marylandlibraries.org)



# MESSAGE FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN

IRENE PADILLA  
STATE LIBRARIAN



The Maryland State Library (MSL) celebrated our third year as an independent agency. We've learned so much and continue to expand the types of services we provide to our customers.

We are proud to announce that in fiscal year 2020, MSL:

- Distributed over \$2.2 million in federal grant awards to support Maryland public libraries, an increase of over 300% since the agency was established in 2017.
- Changed the name of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) and added the requirement that one member of the Maryland State Library Board shall be a blind patron of the LBPD by unanimous approval of the Maryland General Assembly during the 2020 session (SB 326 and HB 604) and passed into law effective October 1, 2020.
- Relocated MSL headquarters to 25 South Charles St., Suite 1310, Baltimore, MD 21201.
- Provided continuous mail and phone service to blind and low vision customers throughout the pandemic thanks to the commitment of the LBPD staff.
- Opened the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library website: [www.marylanddcdl.org](http://www.marylanddcdl.org).
- Issued the Maryland Day By Day Family Literacy Activity Forever Calendar, including an interactive online version: [www.daybydaymd.org](http://www.daybydaymd.org).
- Sponsored the One Maryland One Book selection *What the Eyes Don't See* by Mona Hanna-Attisha.
- Hosted the fifth annual MD Tech Connect conference at USM Shady Grove campus, featuring Maryland libraries' exciting technology projects.
- Partnered with Maryland Census and the Maryland Department of Planning to provide timely and accurate information to library systems about the 2020 Census.
- Received an increase of more than 40% for the FY 2021 County Public Library Capital Grants program, which will provide \$7,300,000 (an increase of \$2.3 million) for library building renovations and construction. In 2020, two new libraries opened in Anne Arundel County (Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library) and St. Mary's County (Leonardtowntown Library).
- Developed *Best Practices for Reopening Maryland Libraries* to provide statewide guidance and recommendations on the phased reopening of Maryland public libraries during COVID-19 and developed a web guide entitled *COVID-19 Resources for Maryland Libraries*, a compendium of information and resources to assist decision-making about reopening.
- Reissued the *Laws of Maryland Relating to Public Libraries*, 2019 Edition.

Maryland libraries remain resilient and responsive to their communities' needs and will continue to provide crucial library services to ensure that our communities are strong and well-positioned for a rapid recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

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## MISSION

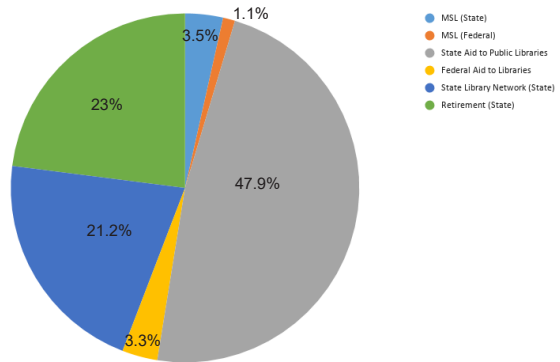
MSL provides leadership to promote planning and innovation in the development of library programs, to encourage the ongoing development of staff expertise through education and training, and to promote resource sharing among all types of libraries. Responsibilities include oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled ([www.lbph.maryland.gov](http://www.lbph.maryland.gov)), Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Network, the Public Library Capital Grants Program, and the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library ([www.marylanddcdl.org](http://www.marylanddcdl.org)). Learn more about the history and mission of the Maryland State Library and its governance by visiting: [www.marylandlibraries.org](http://www.marylandlibraries.org).

# MSL BUDGET FY2020

As the State Library Agency for Maryland, the Maryland State Library administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources and programs and to provide excellent customer service. MSL 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 (comprised of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), three regional libraries, two smaller programs to facilitate interlibrary loan, and the Library Associate Training Institute). In addition, the Enoch Pratt Free Library receives additional state funding for increased operating hours.

## FY 2020 Expenditures

MSL (State)	\$3,168,936
MSL (Federal)	\$1,005,638
State Aid to Public Libraries	\$43,211,040
Federal Aid to Libraries	\$2,966,279
State Library Network (State)	\$19,096,631
Retirement (State)	\$20,726,752



# CAPITAL GRANTS

Maryland's Public Library Capital Grants Program mandates that five million dollars be included in the state budget every year. Goals of the program include geographic diversity in the distribution of awards, as well as a wealth-based match formula to encourage local jurisdictions to fund urgent and necessary public library development across the state. The grant program continues to meet the goal of geographic diversity in the distribution of awards; 23 of the state's 24 library systems received funds to renovate, expand or construct library facilities. FY2020 marks the thirteenth year that state assistance has been made available to public libraries in Maryland. Since FY2008, \$60,025,000 has been authorized, which has generated an estimated \$350,000,000 dollars in local matching funds. This program has funded not only important renovations but also opened an astounding 17 new libraries, two of which opened in FY2020.

## FY 2020 New Libraries:



**St. Mary's County Library  
Leonardtown Library**  
Total Capital Grant Award:  
\$1, 591, 000



Photos: Grimm and Parker Architects, Inc

**Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library**  
Total Capital Grant Award: \$1, 033, 024



Photos: <https://www.aacpl.net/new-annapolis>

# 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 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to support programs and initiatives in libraries statewide.

## Library Services and Technology Act Funding Distributed:



\$2M+

In federal Library Services and Technology Act funds distributed to libraries to support staff development, early literacy initiatives, career readiness programming for teens, augmented reality StoryWalks in public parks, loanable WiFi hotspots, strategic and facilities plans, and more.

Staff Development Programs

80+

Staff Attendees Across MD

2,700+

## LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PRINT DISABLED

The mission of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) is to provide comprehensive library services to eligible blind and print-disabled residents of the state of Maryland. LBPD provides free access to accessible reading materials (books and magazines) and accessible college textbooks, as well as to programs and events geared towards those with print disabilities.

Registered Users

8,745

Items in Collection

395K

Items Borrowed

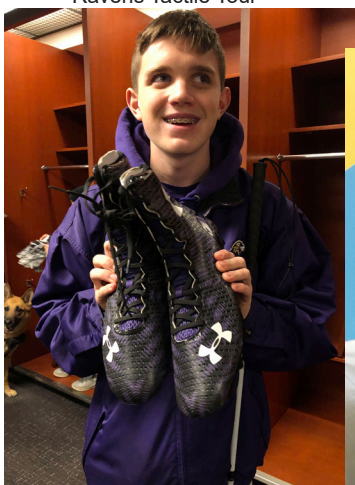
225K

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled continued its core services even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including mailing digital talking book machines, accessories, digital talking books and braille books to 8,745 new and existing library patrons. Additionally, many of the events and programs scheduled for 2020 were moved from an in-person format to a teleconference platform.

## Library Events & Programs

Nearly 3,500 patrons, caregivers, stakeholders and potential patrons participated in library hosted events and programs. This included innovative, collaborative programs such as Build a Better Book with the Baltimore-based makerspace, Full Blast Steam, tactile tours of the Goddard Space Flight Center and M&T Bank Stadium, and teleconferences focused on family, education, and healthy living in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension program.

Ravens Tactile Tour



Build a Better Book Program



## Making College Accessible

The Maryland Accessible Textbook program converted over 6,000 chapters to digital format from textbooks for 47 Maryland college students.

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES



**2.6M**  
Event Attendees

Maryland libraries held more than 100,000 events, including over 57,000 programs for the youngest Marylanders, with 1.7 million+ benefitting from early literacy and STEM activities, summer learning, Food in the Summer, and family programs.



**190**  
Branches

Maryland libraries provide more than 5,400 computers and free WiFi at all branches and in the community via bookmobiles and mobile hotspots.



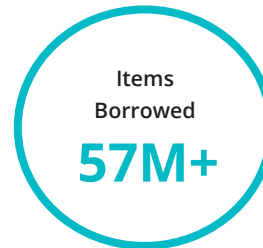
**7.8M+**  
Questions Asked

Library staff assisted Marylanders in gaining important skills for lifelong learning and career readiness. Librarians provided one-on-one instruction, resume and job search assistance, and homework help.



**91K**  
Meeting Room Uses

Marylanders used library meeting rooms for small business needs, homeschooling groups, and community conversations.



**25M**

visits to the local library!



**“Our family believes that the library is doing a fantastic job in supporting the literacy needs of our family.”** *Summer Reading Parent*

## LIBRARIES RESPOND TO COVID-19

Maryland libraries met the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by quickly pivoting services and programs to new formats and by continuing to provide essential services to communities across the state. While branches were closed, libraries extended WiFi beyond their buildings, allowing residents to access vital Internet connections from parking lots and community spaces. Library staff continued to engage customers by providing robust virtual programming, from storytimes to conversations on equity and justice. Libraries also continued to provide contactless services, including book pickup, remote printing and 3D printing services, and phone and virtual reference help. Additionally, libraries and communities benefited from \$546,279 in

CARES Act funding, distributed by MSL for the purchase of PPE, WiFi hotspots and circulating devices, and staff training around pandemic response.





## **Maryland State Library Board:**

Alfred Martin, Chair  
Lynn Wheeler, Vice Chair  
James Fish  
Sharon Maneki  
Sharan Marshall  
Wilson Parran  
Robert Windley

### **Ex Officio**

Andrea Berstler, President, Maryland Library Association  
Heidi Daniel, President and CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Keith Marzullo, Dean, University of Maryland iSchool  
Brittany Tignor, Past President, Maryland Association of School Librarians

### **Ex Officio (Non Voting)**

Laura Hicks, Director, School Library Media, MSDE

### **Staff**

John W. Owen III, Director, Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled  
Tamar J. Sarnoff, Ph.D., Director, Public Libraries and State Networking Branch

### **Administration**

Irene M. Padilla, Maryland State Librarian  
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor



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