

## Report to MLAC and Maine Library Commission on ARPA Proposed Spending



ARPA LSTA Funding from IMLS for the Maine State Library is **\$2,294,177.00**. No match is required.

MSL proposes using approximately 75% of the money on statewide initiatives and 25% on direct formula grants for public libraries. All libraries will benefit from statewide programs but the IMLS priorities emphasize rapid emergency relief for public libraries since other ARPA funds target colleges and K-12.

MSL wants to ensure that programs and projects are utilizing the best and most targeted funding stream for projects. Example: The **EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND** is probably a better resource to fund hotspots, laptops, and wireless routers than is IMLS money (**\$7 billion versus \$200 million from IMLS**).

### STATE and LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS (in billions)

State	State Govts	States (Capital Projects)	Local Govts	Total
ME	1.209 billion	129 million	494 million	1.652 billion

<https://www.multistate.us/insider/2021/3/16/american-rescue-plan-act-673-billion-for-state-and-local-governments>

The State Librarian, Director of Library Development and MRLS Specialists worked on a list of projects that meet the IMLS priorities and ARPA relief intent.

We have sought additional ideas from the Maine Library Commission and the Maine Library Advisory Council. In addition, Library Development will ask for input from Maine libraries via a survey in mid-April sent to the wider Maine library community.

Current top spending priorities and draft budget amounts are:

**Bendable Statewide Initiative:** Working with the Maine Department of Labor, Adult Education and other stakeholders, MSL wished to establish a lifelong learning system for Maine citizens who are employed, under-employed and unemployed. Bendable Maine will supplement, not replace academic database resources in the Digital Maine Library. MSL will use **\$600,000** to pay for initial costs of the program set up and is seeking other funds from state and philanthropic partners. Bendable is a community-centered lifelong learning system created by the Drucker Institute, a nonprofit social enterprise based at Claremont Graduate University. It allows residents of all ages and backgrounds to easily acquire new knowledge and skills through online courses as well as in-person learning opportunities. The system's aim is to make the residents of a particular place more resilient in the face of a fast-changing economy. The St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend, IN is the vehicle driving the efforts. In Maine it will be the Maine State Library and our connected public libraries. See [Bendable](#) in action.

**Maine InfoNet Initiative:** Utilizing the foundational efforts proposed but not funded in *LD 1149, Accelerating Libraries Access to Maine's Statewide Catalog (MaineCAT)*. MSL would like to grant **\$500,000** to Maine InfoNet to support bringing additional libraries into the MaineCat Statewide Resource Sharing Environment. This will allow additional libraries (and their communities) to benefit from the established statewide system, recover from the past pandemic ravaged year, upgrade and refresh their library systems and data, help support the libraries in their daily operations, help meet the needs of their patrons, and build resiliency for dealing with future disruptions. Currently 54 public libraries in Maine have direct patron requesting via MaineCat. These libraries represent a potential patron base of just over half of Maine's population. In order to significantly accelerate the addition of more libraries into the Statewide System investment must be made to provide catalog systems that can directly connect to this central requesting resource. Maine's smallest and most rural libraries are currently underrepresented in MaineCat. This initiative will target

these libraries while also strengthening and reimagining existing partnerships and systems. Support for physical sharing of items as well as new modes of sharing digital resources will be addressed.

**Direct Formula Sub Grants to Public Libraries:** Following guidance from IMLS to provide swift and direct relief to libraries as a result of the pandemic, MSL proposes providing direct formula grants to all public libraries. Grant amounts to libraries will be based upon library service population, percent of population living in poverty and free and reduced school lunch program data. Libraries will need to have or obtain a DUNS #. Libraries will be required to submit a report online. Libraries can only spend funds on allowable items that meet the purposes of ARPA funds. Anticipated amount is between **\$580,000 - \$600,000**.

**Grant Management:** MSL proposes to use funds from the 4% designated for Administration to pay for Grant Management Software and a contracted Part-time Grant Administrator at a cost of **\$35,000**.

**Continuance of CARES Act Statewide Initiatives:** Add an additional 2 years for support of: Zoom licenses, Omeka – Contemporary Archives Project and Beanstack for **\$80,000**.

**Geolocation/GeoAuthentication Service:** Contract and test implementation of a geolocation/authentication service for online resources. Current service is through a database vendor and MSL would like to explore a service not tied to a database vendor. In conjunction with Maine InofNet. **\$50,000**.

**Grant to MSL for Van Delivery:** Budget relief so MSL can continue to fund 1 free day for libraries (cost increase and budget cut due to COVID). Add new libraries coming on via Balsam and the Maine InfoNet ARPA initiative. **\$75,000**

### **Beta Projects for Future Statewide Implementation**

**Library Annex and/or Kiosks:** Beta test setting up kiosks to serve as a hotspot and provide other remote services in a rural and/or urban library community. Kiosks would receive an MSLN connection for WIFI, e-book download access, and other services the library would like to provide at a location. Also, setting up a library annex in a town with no library to provide small scale library services. Testing would determine costs and advantages and obstacles before pursuing a larger roll out. **\$30,000**

**Telehealth:** Beta test 2 or more libraries with equipment and other technology to provide telehealth access in rural libraries for their patrons with no highspeed access to video conference with primary care, specialists, and mental health professionals. Beta test would determine best equipment, soundproof rooms, etc. Testing would determine costs and advantages and obstacles before pursuing a larger roll out. **\$30,000**

Discussion:

1. Fairest way to construct formula grants?
  - a. LSA combined with Free/Reduced School Lunch and Poverty data?
  - b. Flat amount to each library and then increase amount to libraries based on Free/Reduced School Lunch and Poverty data.
  - c. Or, other suggestions?

Note, IMLS has suggested Free/Reduced School Lunch and E-rate discounts use the same versus poverty % data.

2. Libraries must have a DUNS #, fill out an application, spend money in priority areas only and submit a report online by September 30, 2022 that includes a narrative and financial report.

All funding must meet IMLS and ARPA priorities.

ARPA Spending Priorities

Purpose

To achieve the American Rescue Plan Act’s purposes with respect to Grants to States, this funding is to be used by September 30, 2022, in helping communities respond directly and immediately to the pandemic, as well as to related economic and community needs through equitable approaches. Spending priorities are as follows:

- a. First, to enable libraries to reach residents with internet hotspots, accessible Wi-Fi, and other digital inclusion efforts, particularly in support of education, health, and workforce development needs. The following types of data, among others, can inform efforts to reach underserved populations:
  - Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Unemployment
  - Broadband availability;
- b. Second, to provide rapid emergency relief to libraries across the country, allowing them to safely respond to the pandemic and implement public health protocols;
- c. Third, to support library services that meet the needs of communities throughout the U.S., including costs such as personnel, technology, training, materials, supplies, equipment, and associated indirect costs; and
- d. With respect to (a), (b), or (c), reach tribal and museum partners best positioned to assist with pandemic response efforts, in addition to traditionally eligible library entities, where appropriate.

Crosswalk of Projects to Priorities

<b>ARPA/LSTA Projects</b>	<b>ARPA/IMLS Priorities</b>	<b>Narrative (To be completed)</b>
Bendable	A, C	
Infonet	C	
Kiosk/Community WIFI - Beta Test	A, C	
Individual Library Formula Grants	A, B, C	
Telehealth - Beta Test	A	
Geolocation	A	
Van delivery	C	
	Grant	
Grant Management software	Admin	
	Grant	
Grant Project Manager	Admin	
Beanstack	C	
Zoom	A, C	
Omeka	C	

Note: Regarding Priority D. I am considering outreach to the 5 Maine Native American Tribes to see if a formula grant under the Individual Library Formula grants would work, especially for reporting requirements

<b>ARPA Projects</b>	<b>\$2,294,177</b>	
Bendable	\$600,000	Down payment
Infonet (Grant)	\$500,000	Based on failed LD 1149 legislation priorities
Kiosk/Community WIFI - Beta Test	\$30,000	Extend in an existing community - or test in a Books by Mail community that has no library
Individual Library Formula Grants (Grant)	\$580,000	Based upon LSA -designated amount for allowable projects. We can discussion
Telehealth	\$30,000	Specialists initiative. Whisper rooms and equipment
Geolocation	\$50,000	Free geo process access from vendor and put MSL and InfoNet in control.
Van delivery (Possible Grant)	\$75,000	Funds to give MSL temp relief from budget constraints. Add new libs from Balsalm and/or MILS
Grant Management software	\$8,500	Manage individual and all subgrants more easily 2 years plus set up. Must be taken from Admin
Grant Project Manager (\$35 per hour)	\$25,830	Person to assist with grants projects - Payroll Services contract - Must be taken from Admin
Beanstack	\$60,000	Continue CARES Project after year 2 - September 2021
Zoom	\$15,000	Continuing CARES projects with ARPA
Omeka	\$5,000	Continuing CARES projects with ARPA
STACAP	\$91,767	Those designated as grants are not subject to 4%
	<b>\$2,071,097</b>	
<b>Remaining Funds</b>	<b>\$223,080</b>	

### Other ideas, suggestions from Specialists

Tumblebooks	Early Literacy. TumbleBookLibrary: 3 year subscription = \$37,611/yr; 2 year subscription = \$42,984/yr; 1 year subscription = \$53,730
Homework Helper	K-12 <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/free-tech-help">Public libraries - modeled on Arizona LibTAP program - https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/free-tech-help</a>
Tech Phone Help	
Scholarships for formal certificates/degrees	Move people towards certificates and assoc/BA at UMA
VR Petting Zoo	Virtual reality experiences demos at public libraries
Hot spot lending (ind grants)	Better to use e-rate Emergency funds - no match required
Community Colleges	Other funds better used? Proxy servers? Content to add to DML and/or Bendable
Website Templates via MSLN	
ADA audits of websites	
Northstar Digital	<a href="https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/assessment-info">https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/assessment-info</a>
Lynda Library or Udemy	Integrate into Bendable