

Montana State Library  
COVID-Related Funding and Expenditures  
*March 2022 Updates*

## MSL COVID Funding Status as of Q2 FY2022

Funding Source	Deadline	Budget	E-Content	Hotspots	Newline	Total	Remaining
CARES 1: IMILS	09/30/21	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	\$0
ARPA-ECONTENT	12/31/22	\$1,000,000	\$10	-	-	\$10	\$999,990
ARPA-HOT SPOT	12/31/22	\$1,235,444	-	\$84,985	-	\$84,985	\$1,150,459
ARPA-NEWSLINE	06/30/22	\$120,000	-	-	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,446,448</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$175,989</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$235,999</b>	<b>\$2,210,449</b>

## E-Content

### Digital Reading & Educational Materials

- So far in FY22, Montana readers have checked out 789,720 ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines from the MontanaLibrary2Go e-collection. The digital collection delivers “anytime, anywhere” access to reading material in communities of all sizes, from Winnett to Billings.
- Through an arrangement with Overdrive called Public Library Connect, K-12 students can borrow teen and children’s books from the MontanaLibrary2Go collection through their school Sora app. Since the start of the fiscal year, students borrowed 3,273 ebooks and audiobooks.
- To expand educational and workforce opportunities, MSL added Great Courses, Universal Class, and Method Learning to its online offerings.
  - Since the addition of these resources in mid-December, 523 students have accessed classes through the Libby app.
  - Example learning tracts include entrepreneurship, finance, office skills, web development, and computer training.

### Montana Memory Project

- Montana Memory Project (MMP) documents the state’s cultural heritage with digital collections. This fiscal year, 57,754 people have accessed the collections with an additional 21,601 followers on social media.
  - ARPA will fund \$28,000 in project proposals including 2 video projects, 6 oral histories, and 6 digitization projects from Conrad/Brady, Winifred, Virginia City, Billings, Great Falls, and Yellowstone. The MMP is working with Montana Historical Foundation to award another \$60,000. Those awards will be announced at the end of March.
  - Through ARPA funding, the MMP staff will travel 4,000 miles this summer to conduct outreach at counties not yet represented in the collection. At present, 42 out of 56 counties have published projects. Two additional counties have active applications.
  - A summer workshop will help teachers create primary source sets and narrative displays on the website that they can use in their classrooms. The MMP has budgeted \$20,000 for this event.

## E-Content Budget Priorities

- The Montana State Library Commission approved the following ARPA e-content budget at their December meeting:

Priorities	Type of content	Library types served	Proposed %	Amount
<b>One-time credits for shared accounts</b>	Downloadable/streaming ebooks, e-audio	All	50%	\$360,000
<b>Initiate or extend one-year trials</b>	Continuing education, test prep, summer reading	Publics & tribals	10%	\$72,000
<b>One-year pilot subscriptions to evaluate new resources</b>	Various	All	20%	\$144,000
<b>One-year trials for new e-content formats</b>	Streaming video, music, PPU ebooks/audio	Publics & tribals	5%	\$36,000
<b>One-time purchase of offline ebooks, e-audio</b>	Ebooks, e-audio	Publics & tribals	5%	\$36,000
<b>Professional development resources for staff</b>	Online self-paced courses, webinars, ebooks	All library staff	5%	\$36,000
<b>Analytics software for courier and collaborative collection development</b>	Data	Libraries participating in resource sharing programs	5%	\$36,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$720,000</b>

## Broadband

### Hotspot Program

- The hotspot program continues to be popular across the state, providing access to borrowers beyond the walls of the library.
  - As of mid-February, 910 hotspots have checked out 9,740 times at 95 different libraries.
  - According to 524 use surveys, 69% of borrowers have either no household internet service or only cellular data.
  - Respondents use hotspots for many reasons. Most notably, hotspots can be used by workers to find or continue employment. 20% of the respondents used a hotspot to “look for/apply to a job.” Other reported uses include keeping informed of current events; researching a topic of interest; connecting via teleconference; attending telehealth services; and filling out forms (social services, taxes, etc.).
  - New participants to the program include Henry Malley Library in Powder River County and Lavina Public School in Golden Valley County. Only two counties remain that do not have access to hotspots, Carter and Wibaux counties.
  - MSL distributed hotspots to two additional schools, Lavina Public School and Chester-Joplin-Inverness Public School.

## Libraries' Internal Broadband Capacity

- Since November, MSL completed the last of 30 library site assessments to form equipment recommendations. Library participants were prioritized for the project based on several criteria including internet speed, equipment age, use per capita, and income per capita.
- MSL selected a cabling contractor and created floor plans. The library is now conducting a limited solicitation for racks and cabling.

## Newsline

- Access to NFB-Newsline began in September 2021. Since that time, 397 subscribers have used the resource, including 14 new subscribers.
- Of the material available, Montana newspapers are the most popular with 39,214 content uses, 83.9% of the total. Other content uses include national newspapers (5.6%), international newspapers (5.3%), breaking news online (2.2%), magazines (2.2%), local weather & emergency alerts (0.2%), and Montana local channels (0.1%).

NFB-Newsline Content Use by Type

