

Montana State Library

COVID-Related Funding and Expenditures

December 2021 Updates

MSL COVID Funding Status as of Q1 FY2022

Funding Source	Funding Deadline	Budget	E-Content	Hotspots	Newsline	Total	Remaining
CARES 1: IMLS	9/30/21	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	\$0
ARPA-ECONTENT	12/31/22	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000,000
ARPA-HOTSPOT	12/31/22	\$1,235,444	-	\$10,189	-	\$10,189	\$1,225,255
ARPA-NEWSLINE	6/30/22	\$120,000	-	-	-	-	\$120,000
Total		\$2,446,448	\$0	\$101,193	\$0	\$101,193	\$2,345,255

E-Content

Future Work

- The proposed ARPA e-resources budget was reviewed by the Network Advisory Committee in November 2021

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

Broadband

Hotspot Program

- MSL's goal is to get hotspots to every county
- 7 new counties with hotspots
 - Judith Basin
 - Liberty
 - Musselshell
 - Powell
 - Prairie
 - Treasure
 - Wheatland
- 4 counties without hotspots
 - Carter
 - Golden Valley
 - Powder River
 - Wibaux
- MSL staff is working with schools and other organizations to get service to county residents

Libraries' Internal Broadband Capacity

- Libraries were prioritized for the project based on several criteria
 - Internet speed – libraries who reported speeds slower than 25MB.
 - Age of equipment – libraries who reported equipment older than 5 years.
 - Libraries that were willing to find the funding to upgrade their Internet speeds.
 - Libraries that reported a patron rating of their Wi-Fi connection that was 2 or less. In that ranking scale, 1 was the worst and 5 was the best.
 - Responses to the question about why you want to participate were evaluated based on whether this project could address the problem presented, need of the community members, and severity of problems being solved.
 - Wired/wireless usage per capita – staff reviewed library statistics and calculated wired/wireless usage per capita. Libraries that had usage of 2 or more per capita.
 - Income per capita – staff reviewed library statistics and calculated local government income per capita. Libraries that received \$26 or less per capita.
- 11 libraries visited as of November 2021
 - Clancy
 - Darby
 - Dillon
 - Ennis
 - Eureka
 - Hamilton
 - Libby
 - Montana City
 - Polson
 - Stevensville
 - Troy
- All libraries expected to be visited by mid-December 2021
- Equipment ordered early to attempt to avoid supply chain disruptions

- MSL and procurement have begun contract negotiations with a cabling contractor selected as part of an invitation to bid process
- Information about how the participating libraries were selected

Newsline

- Access to NFB-Newsline began in September 2021
- Quarterly reporting from the National Federation of the Blind not yet available
- Information to be received include number of patrons, number of new patrons, number of patrons discontinuing use, popular publications, and patron feedback