

How Federal Funds Are Opening New Doors to Service

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds keep services flowing for libraries, literacy programs, and museums during an unprecedented time.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries received \$2.8 million in ARPA funds to address the needs of public libraries, literacy programs, museums, and Tribal libraries/cultural centers. Spending criteria was provided by IMLS based on ARPA legislation.

ARPA Targeted Grants to Institutions

\$1.45 million in grants to 101 public libraries is funding a diverse array of items and projects to protect public health and assure continued services, including: cleanable furniture, network enhancements and Wi-Fi expansion, connectivity devices, online subscription services, video conference capabilities, health and wellness materials, and temporary staffing.

\$335,399 in grants to 40 museums and 8 Tribal libraries/cultural centers is providing these institutions with equipment and capabilities to improve both in-house and virtual visits: PPE, digitization of collections, network enhancements, and temporary staffing.

\$92,685 in grant funding to 16 adult literacy programs is keeping tutors and adult learners connected. Grants funded connectivity devices for virtual learning and maintenance of communication between tutor and student, outreach efforts to rebuild local volunteer corps and student enrollment, online subscriptions to learning resources, and cleanable tutoring stations.



Other ARPA Projects

Online High School: ARPA and LSTA funds are being used to pilot a fully-accredited online high school diploma program for the Southern Oklahoma Library System and libraries in Ada, Elk City, Lawton, and Miami. As of February, 11 students were enrolled, 2 were finalizing enrollment, and 4 were working on the pre-requisite testing.

Ready2Read: ODL is partnering with the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma for this pre-literacy project at 30 small and medium-sized public libraries. ARPA funds will provide pre-school books, training materials, and programs to help staff, volunteers, and parents prepare young children for reading and learning.

In the Works: Up to 5 public libraries will receive Telehealth Pods to allow connectivity and privacy for patrons during virtual appointments with their doctors. At least 15 public libraries will receive Library Document Stations with scanning and communications capabilities to help patrons as they apply for jobs, access government services, or handle personal business. Workforce Development Materials are being provided to the unique populations at all of Oklahoma's adult and juvenile institutions. Other projects are also in the works!

More on other side

ODL's Annual LSTA Grant at Work in FFY2021

Reference and Information Resources for All

Oklahoma's annual grant through the Library Services and Technology Act funds a statewide license to a powerful database of online resources for all state residents. Millions of full-text articles on consumer health, business, and other educational and recreational topics are available, saving thousands of local taxpayer dollars. **The resource can be accessed at homes and offices, or through public, school, academic, and tribal libraries.** In FFY21, Oklahomans accessed more than 5 million documents, including article abstracts and 2.2 million full-text articles (up from 1.3 million in FFY20).

eBooks and Audio Books for Everyone

The OK Virtual Library Consortium offers electronic books and resources to **91 public and tribal libraries that each serve fewer than 100,000 residents.** In FFY21, Oklahomans borrowed more than 1 million titles from the shared collection. On their own, these smaller libraries could never afford the range of eBook selection available through the consortium. Partnerships matter. **ODL uses federal funds to expand the offerings available to OK Virtual Library customers.**

At Your Service 24/7

58 rural libraries (up from 49 in FFY20) and 3 literacy programs provide access to information and services around the clock thanks to the Public Library Websites Program. Oklahomans accessed these sites more than 1 million times last year. Because of these sites, patrons discovered summer child lunch programs, take-home craft projects for children, and electronic media. As one patron said, "During the first part of COVID with being stuck at home, I learned how to download books from your website. I am an avid reader but didn't know that I could get books online from the library for free!"

Summer Reading Adapts to the Pandemic

Just when you think things are returning to normal, along comes Delta. Still, **Oklahoma's public libraries held 4,493 pre-school, children's, and teen programs last summer.** (1,695 programs were virtual, while 1,008 were held outdoors.) Public libraries recorded more than 29,000 transactions with young readers that encompassed book borrowing and curbside distribution of book/activity bags.

Continuing Education Adapts to the Pandemic

ODL's Public Library Academy classes were fully virtual in FFY21. **The Academy offers a certification program to help library staff receive the knowledge and training required** to assure quality services. 127 public library staff attended CE programs. 699 public library staff members are fully certified currently.

ODL's Health Literacy Program Keeps Growing

A record 36 grants were awarded to Oklahoma public libraries to host Health Literacy programs, ranging from exercise classes to healthy cooking, gardening, and mental health programs. **The state's Health Literacy efforts are nationally-recognized,** and almost **16,000 Oklahomans attended in-person or virtual programs** to learn about healthy behaviors and participate in healthy activities.

