

MONTANA

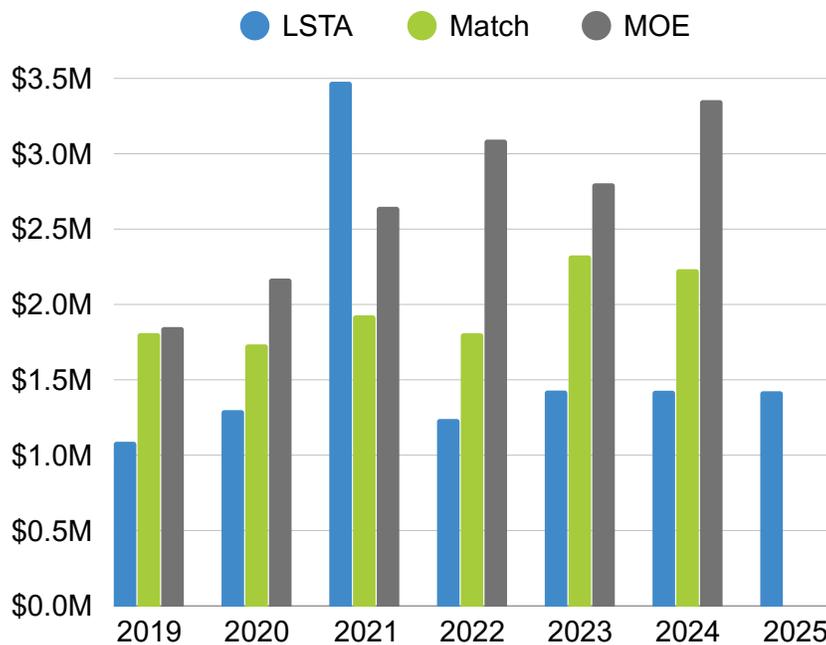


Advance Federal Funding to Strengthen and Expand Library Services

Montana received \$1.4 million in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States funding in 2025, which strengthens and expands essential library services statewide. This investment, matched by state and local dollars, supports critical shared infrastructure such as Montana’s digital card catalog and access to ebooks through the Libby app. Together, these resources ensure that Montanans in every corner of the state can access the information, technology, and learning opportunities they need to reach their personal, educational, and professional goals.

Continued federal support is essential to keep these high-value services affordable for local communities and available to every Montanan.

Montana’s LSTA Grants to States Funding FFY2019-2025



Totals include pandemic relief funds: \$97K in FFY2020 and \$2.24M in FFY2021. FFY2025 Match and Maintenance of Effort (MOE) will be reported in January 2027.

122
libraries

More than one in three Montanans has a public library card, connecting people to **122 public libraries** in 54 counties for reading, lifelong learning, and community. In 2025, these libraries welcomed **3.3 million visits**, the equivalent of **three visits for every Montanan**.

What’s Next for Montana Libraries

Empowering AI-Ready Communities: Montana State Library will offer training to equip librarians and patrons with the skills to use artificial intelligence tools effectively, ensuring that every Montanan can access and apply reliable information in a digital world.

Fostering Civic Engagement and National Pride: A new statewide book club will connect readers of all ages through discussions that celebrate civics, community, and America’s 250th anniversary, helping strengthen understanding of our shared democratic foundations.

Expanding Access for Montanans: Accessibility and usability training will help libraries improve services for people with disabilities, including Montanans who are blind or have low vision. These efforts will provide practical tools and guidance that strengthen library facilities, technology, and programs so every Montanan can engage fully in education and community life.



MONTANA



Fostering Strong Readers for a Brighter Future for America

Montana's federal library funds help build **strong readers** from early childhood through adulthood, in every kind of community. **Federal LSTA Grants to States funding supports literacy, family reading, and shared books** that reach Montanans where they live and learn.

Montana State Library launched an early literacy texting program called ParentPowered that sends caregivers simple, research-backed tips three times a week so they can weave young children's language and reading skills into everyday routines, starting in communities where reading scores lag.

These same funds support professional training for children's librarians, including a workshop with Montana's First Lady on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, so librarians can connect more families with free monthly books for children from birth to age five, including back-catalog titles shared through partners such as food banks and Women, Infants, and Children clinics.

Books Before Bedtime, a virtual story time program, brings stories into the comfort of home so children can join in their pajamas with their caregivers to listen to a story and learn simple ways to talk about books together. Each family receives a copy of the featured book in the mail along with easy, at-home activities that help extend learning beyond the session.

By modeling everyday literacy practices and offering actionable tips, **Montana libraries equip caregivers to serve as a child's first and most important teacher.** In 2025 alone, **Montana libraries offered more than 6,300 early literacy programs attended by nearly 120,000 children and caregivers.**

Montanans love to recreate outdoors. Did you know **Montanans visit libraries just as frequently as they visit our state parks?** According to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks "2024 Montana State Parks Annual Visitation Report," the state park system welcomed 3.2 million visitors. In the same year, **Montanans visited their public libraries 3.3 million times** to take part in a community life that strengthens literacy, promotes well-being, and fosters civic pride.

2025 Key Library Measures



403,000 Number of Montanans who had a card at their public library



6.2 million Number of books and other items Montanans borrowed from their public libraries



602,000 Number of questions Montanans asked their trusted public librarians



358,000 Number of times Montanans of all ages attended educational library programs

Building Readers and Community

At Woodenlegs Library in Northern Cheyenne Country, summer reading brought the community together in powerful ways. The Sisters Sewing Circle created 60 pieces of regalia which were then donated to Head Start classrooms so every child could participate in heritage activities. The season culminated in a children's powwow with 154 attendees, where families received 658 books to read at home (pictured right). This is just one example of how **summer library programs unite families around reading and community.** Across Montana, about **70,000 people attended summer reading events in 2025.**

