

DELAWARE'S LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT GRANTS TO STATES FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2023-2027)

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Submitted to IMLS by: Delaware Division of Libraries
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Delaware
Division of **Libraries**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
MISSION STATEMENT	3
NEEDS ASSESSMENT	3
GOALS	8
GOAL 1 - BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES	10
Objective 1.1 - Grow Facilities Capacity	11
Objective 1.2 - Enhance & Leverage Library Technology Infrastructure	11
Objective 1.3 - Enhance Library Staff Knowledge & Skills	11
Objective 1.4 - Assess & Address Mechanisms to Streamline Library Governance	12
Objective 1.5 - Assess & Address Statewide Library Personnel Needs	12
GOAL 2 - ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS	12
Objective 2.1 - Resource Enrichment and Sharing	13
Objective 2.2 - Access to Library Resources for Individuals with Print Disabilities	14
GOAL 3 - BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES	14
Objective 3.1 - Delaware Communities of Excellence	15
Objective 3.2 - Delaware Library Social Infrastructure and Social Innovation	15
Objective 3.3 - Lifelong Learning & Enrichment	16
COORDINATION EFFORTS	16
EVALUATION PLAN	17
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT	19
COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY	19
MONITORING	20
ASSURANCES	21
APPENDIX A - PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	A-1
APPENDIX B - CROSSWALK TABLE	B-1
APPENDIX C - DELAWARE STRATEGY MAP & EVALUATION	C-1

INTRODUCTION

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) authorizes state program grants to certified state library administrative agencies (SLAAs). In order to be eligible for funding, SLAAs must submit a five-year plan for implementation that is consistent with the stated purposes of LSTA and with the priorities of the “Grants to States” program. Each year, SLAAs throughout the nation carry out more than 1,500 projects that are supported by this program. Funds are distributed to the states and territories and are monitored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Following are purposes of LSTA and the priorities¹ of the Grants to States program.

Purposes of LSTA (20 U.S.C. § 9121)

1. Enhance coordination among Federal programs that relate to library, education, and information services;
2. Promote continuous improvement in library services in all types of libraries in order to better serve the people of the United States;
3. Facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry;
4. Encourage resource sharing among all types of libraries for the purpose of achieving economical and efficient delivery of library services to the public;
5. Promote literacy, education, and lifelong learning, including by building learning partnerships with school libraries in our Nation’s schools, including tribal schools, and developing resources, capabilities, and programs in support of State, tribal, and local efforts to offer a well-rounded educational experience to all students;
6. Enable libraries to develop services that meet the needs of communities throughout the Nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers;
7. Enable libraries to serve as anchor institutions to support community revitalization through enhancing and expanding the services and resources provided by libraries, including those services and resources relating to workforce development, economic and business development, critical thinking skills, health information, digital literacy skills, financial literacy and other types of literacy skills, and new and emerging technology;
8. Enhance the skills of the current library workforce and recruit future professionals, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to the field of library and information services;
9. Ensure the preservation of knowledge and library collections in all formats and enable libraries to serve their communities during disasters;
10. Enhance the role of libraries within the information infrastructure of the United States in order to support research, education, and innovation;

¹ <https://www.ims.gov/grants/grants-state/purposes-and-priorities-lsta>

11. Promote library services that provide users with access to information through national, State, local, regional, and international collaborations and networks; and
12. Encourage, support, and disseminate model programs of library and museum collaboration.

Grants to States (20 U.S.C. § 9141)

1. Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats (including new and emerging technology), in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and financial literacy and other types of literacy skills;
2. Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and entities, as described in 20 U.S.C. § 9134(b)(6), for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
3. (A) Provide training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership, and advance the delivery of library and information services; and (B) Enhance efforts to recruit future professionals, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to the field of library and information services;
4. Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and community-based organizations;
5. Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;
6. Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 9902(2) of title 42) applicable to a family of the size involved;
7. Develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, State, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks; and
8. Carry out other activities consistent with the purposes set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 9121, as described in the State library administrative agency's plan.

In compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Museum and Library Services Act as Amended, the following document presents the Delaware Division of Libraries' (DDL) FFY 2023 - 2027 plan for fulfilling the objectives of the LSTA Grants to States program. However, the Plan before you is not limited to the scope of projects, activities, and initiatives that will be carried out using Federal LSTA funds. Rather, the plan is an integrated document that demonstrates how DDL will pursue its efforts to fulfill its mission using a myriad of funding sources ranging from non-governmental resources provided by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

While DDL recognizes that certain components mentioned in the Plan, e.g., facility construction, are not eligible for LSTA funds, they are, nevertheless, elements of a consolidated blueprint designed to achieve the ultimate goal of thriving communities of flourishing individuals.

The Plan summarizes the needs of Delaware’s libraries as well as the library and information needs of First State residents. These needs have been identified through an examination of a variety of factors including demographic data, relevant societal indicators, and findings and insights from the recently completed evaluation of DDL’s implementation of its 2018 - 2022 LSTA Five-Year Plan. The new 2023 - 2027 LSTA Five-Year Plan sets forth goals and identifies anticipated projects designed to address these needs. The Plan clearly identifies projects that are not eligible for LSTA support as well as those that are most likely to utilize federal funds.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Delaware Division of Libraries provides leadership and support for the timely development of Delaware’s libraries, to ensure convenient access to, and encourage use of current information resources and reading material by all Delawareans. Members of the Delaware library community are unified in the values of service, access, and excellence, and are committed to the vision of progressive libraries and the transformational impact they have on the people who use them.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A variety of data sources were used to develop the needs assessment portion of this Plan. Sources of information include 2020 U.S. Census, 2021 America’s Health Rankings, and the Delaware State government website.

General Demographic Characteristics

In spite of its small physical size, Delaware is quite a diverse state and is, in many ways, a microcosm of the nation. The First State is home to densely-populated urban neighborhoods and sprawling farm fields, traditional suburbs and upscale tourist destinations, legacy industrial complexes and high-tech office parks. Amazingly, all of this diversity occurs within a framework of only three counties and 1,982 square miles.

Delaware’s total population is small compared to most other states; however, the First State’s population has consistently grown more rapidly than the national population. The U.S. Census Bureau’s 1980 data showed that Delaware had a population of just under 600,000 (594,338). The state’s population grew by 12.09% between 1980 and 1990 and by an additional 17.63% between 1990 and the year 2000. By the time of the 2010 census, Delaware had reached a population of nearly 900,000 (897,934) representing a 14.59% increase during that decade. The First State continued its double-digit percentage growth in the 2010 - 2020 time-span. Delaware grew by 10.25% in that period compared to a national growth rate of 7.35%. The Census Bureau’s population estimate as of July 1, 2021 indicates that Delaware has now topped one-

million residents (1,003,384) for the first time in its history.

Delaware's population is diverse and is becoming more diverse. The 2020 U.S. Census indicates that Delaware's African-American population is 23.2% of the total. This compares to 22.4% in 2015. In comparison, African-Americans comprise 13.4% of the total U.S. population. The national percentage in 2015 was 13.3%. Delaware's African-American population is largely, but not entirely concentrated in the state's urban areas.

Delaware's Hispanic population is smaller than the national average and stood at 9.6% at the time of the 2020 census. Individuals identifying themselves as Hispanic represented 9.0% of the State's population in 2015. This compares to 18.5% who identified themselves as Hispanic nationally. The Hispanic population in the state is somewhat more widely distributed than the African-American population living in both urban and rural areas of the State.

The percentage of Delaware's population that is foreign-born (9.40%) is somewhat lower than the national mark (13.50%). Not surprisingly, the percentage of individuals living in households where a language other than English is spoken (13.40%) is also lower than the national average (21.50%). Delaware has a slightly higher percentage of service veterans like many other states with major military bases. The Dover Air Force Base is located nearly in the center of the State.

The educational profile of Delaware residents is very similar to the U.S. as a whole. A slightly higher percentage of Delawareans 25+ years of age (90.60%) have graduated from high school. The percentage of First State residents with a college degree (32.70%) is almost identical to the national average (32.90%)

Delaware's median household income stood at \$69,110 at the time of the 2020 Census, about \$4,000 higher than the average U.S. household. This is reflected in a poverty rate 10.90% that is slightly below the national norm (11.40%). Both the percentage of households that reported having a computer (93.10%) and the percentage of households indicating that they have a broadband Internet subscription (87.40%) are a bit higher than the percentages in the country as a whole which were 91.9% and 85.20% respectively.

Delaware's population as a whole is significantly older than the national norm. The median age in the First State at the time of the 2020 Census was 41.10 years compared to 38.31 years across the United States. While the percentage of Delawareans under the age of 65 who have a disability (8.7%) is slightly lower than the national average (9.3%), the overall higher median age in the State suggests that the total percentage of Delaware residents with special needs is likely higher than the national mark.

Basic Demographics	Delaware	United States
Population Estimate (July 1, 2021)	1,003,384	331,893,745
Percentage of Persons Under 5 Years of Age	5.60%	6.00%
Percentage of Persons Under 18 Years of Age	20.90%	22.30%

Basic Demographics	Delaware	United States
Percentage of Persons 65 Years of Age and Over	19.40%	16.50%
Median Age	41.10 Years	38.31 Years
White Alone Percentage	69.20%	76.30%
Black or African-American Alone Percentage	23.20%	13.40%
Asian Alone Percentage	4.10%	5.90%
Percentage Identifying as Hispanic or Latino	9.60%	18.50%
Percentage Foreign-Born Persons	9.40%	13.50%
Language Other than English Spoken at Home - Percentage of Persons % Over 5 Years of Age	13.40%	21.50%
Percentage Veterans	6.48%	5.37%
Percentage of Persons 25+ High School Graduate or Higher (2016 - 2020)	90.60%	88.50%
Percentage of Persons 25+ Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2016 - 2020)	32.70%	32.90%
Percentage of Persons Under Age 65 with a Disability	9.30%	8.70%
Percentage of Persons Under Age 65 without Health Insurance	8.10%	10.20%
Median Household Income (in 2020 dollars)	\$69,110	\$64,994
Percentage of Persons in Poverty	10.90%	11.40%
Percentage of Households with a Computer (2016 - 2020)	93.10%	91.90%
Percentage of Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription (2016 - 2020)	87.40%	85.20%

Library Metrics

Delaware performs very well in comparison to other states in regard to public library facilities and technological infrastructure. This is largely due to significant State investments in these areas. In fact, Delaware’s 2019 ranking of 9th in state revenue per capita (\$3.97) among states would be considerably higher if approximately \$11 million of annual expenditures for facilities and technological infrastructure were included. However, total library revenues, and particularly local library revenues, tell a very different story. In addition, in 2022 the State announced that it is investing another \$40 million for facilities improvements using ARPA funds.

Total public library revenues in 2019 equaled \$32.62 per capita. In comparison, the U.S. average was \$44.88. Furthermore, Delaware only ranks 41st among the states in local revenue per capita at \$26.88 per person. This compares to a national average of \$38.55. High population growth and relatively stagnant local budgets in some areas of the State have translated into per capita support for individual libraries declining over time.

This modest funding at the local level translates into meager library staffing levels and underscores the importance of capacity building in the human resources area. The 2019 PLS shows that Delaware ranked 39th among the states in the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff per 25,000 population. Delaware libraries had 9.48 FTEs per 25,000 population compared to a national average of 11.37 FTEs per 25,000 population.

Other results of poor funding reveal themselves in the form of inadequate collections. One troubling statistic is Delaware’s 46th ranking in collection expenditures per capita (\$2.62 per capita vs. a national average of \$4.51 per capita). The First State also lags in the print materials per capita category with only 1.50 volumes per person. This compares to a national mark of 2.17 volumes per capita and results in a ranking of 43rd among the states. It is to the great credit of Delaware’s hard-working public library staff that the State’s performance on circulation per capita (5.78 per person) places it considerably higher (34th) in the rankings.

Due in part to the fact that Delaware has several library governing entities that cover major portions of counties, the State’s percentage of library jurisdictions with at least one staff member with an American Library Association (ALA) accredited master’s degree (61.90%) is somewhat higher than the national average (45.53%). Education for library staff has been supported over the years by the generous Ada Leigh Soles Scholarship Loan Program for Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees. However, the overall percentage of full-time equivalent library staff with an ALA-accredited master’s degree is only 18.60% compared to 23.64% nationally.

Public Libraries Survey (2019) Metrics	Delaware Rank	Delaware	United States
Total Library Operating Revenue	37	\$32.62	\$44.88
State Operating Revenue	9	\$3.97	\$2.99
Local Operating Revenue	41	\$26.88	\$38.55
Collection Expenditures per Capita	46	\$2.62	\$4.51
Library Visits per Capita	28	4.19/capita	3.93/capita
Print Materials per Capita	43	1.50/capita	2.17/capita
Circulation per Capita	34	5.78/capita	6.86/capita
Programs Offered per 1,000 Population	16	24.26/ 1,000 pop.	18.65/ 1,000 pop.
Total Paid Full-Time Equivalent Staff per 25,000 Population	39	9.48/ 25,000 pop.	11.37/ 25,000 pop.

Public Libraries Survey (2019) Metrics	Delaware Rank	Delaware	United States
Percentage of Paid Full-Time Equivalent Staff with ALA-Accredited Master's Degree		18.60%	23.64%
Percentage of Public Library Jurisdictions with ALA-Accredited Master's Personnel		61.90%	45.53%

The situation is even more dire in the school library realm. A study that generated a *Delaware School Libraries Master Plan* (which was developed in part using LSTA funds in 2017) revealed significant deficiencies in the state's school libraries. The study found that school library staff was non-existent at the building level in many districts, that staff had numerous duties unrelated or only peripherally related to their professional duties. Allocations for school library collections were typically very small and in some cases were zero. The study found that school library collections were both dated and incomplete in terms of meeting curricular needs. There are few indications that this situation has improved.

Other Selected Social Indicators

Although Delaware's basic prose literacy rate and percentage of persons aged 25+ who are high school graduates are both very close to national averages, most would agree that the performance of 4th and 8th graders on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is nevertheless troubling. Only 33% of 4th graders and only 31% of 8th graders tested at the "proficient" level on these tests that are often referred to as "the Nation's Report Card." While these metrics place Delaware only slightly below the national norms, having only one-third of students testing at the proficient level nationally is, if anything, appalling.

Many of Delaware's measures related to health and wellness are also close to national norms. The United Health Foundation's "America's Health Rankings" offers insight into both the status of health care in each state and captures societal factors that are known to influence health outcomes. Delaware ranks 15th among the states in funding for public health. This translates into good scores on factors such as childhood immunizations (2nd in the nation) and colorectal cancer screening (9th among the states).

However, some societal indicators give cause for concern. Delaware ranks 19th in income inequality and almost ten percent (9.9%) of Delaware households are dealing with food insecurity. Delaware ranks 20th in access to mental health care. More than a third (36.5%) of Delawareans can be considered obese (36.5%) compared to a national average of 31.9% resulting in a ranking of 43rd among the states.

In short, while Delaware often ranks at or near national averages on measures of well-being, it is clear that many Delawareans face challenges, often related to economic disparities, that are concerning.

Selected Social Indicators	Delaware	United States
4th Grade - Percentage at or Above National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Proficient Level	33%	34%
8th Grade - Percentage at or Above National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Proficient Level	31%	32%
Basic Prose Literacy Rate (Based on data from the National Center for Educational Statistics [NCES])	89.3%	88.00%
Public Health Funding (America’s Health Rankings)	15	
Childhood Immunizations (America’s Health Rankings)	2	
Colorectal Cancer Screening (America’s Health Rankings)	9	
Income Inequality (America’s Health Rankings)	19	
Food Insecurity (America’s Health Rankings)	19	
Access to Mental Health Care (America’s Health Rankings)	20	
Obesity % Ages 18+ (America’s Health Rankings)	43	

Summary of Needs

- Many Delaware libraries are underfunded and lack the resources they need to adequately serve the public and the funding that they need to fairly compensate staff.
- Many Delaware libraries are inadequately staffed and find it difficult to recruit, train, and retain qualified workers.
- Library staffing in Delaware inadequately represents the diversity of the State’s population.
- The depth of library resources and the quality and range of services offered by Delaware libraries varies greatly based on location.
- Societal factors such as income inequality lead to information needs that are triggered by crisis situations.
- Literacy proficiency levels among Delaware’s children are unacceptable.
- Numerous organizations in the State have overlapping responsibilities for addressing basic human needs.
- Some Delaware residents are print-disabled and require specialized library services.

GOALS

Introduction

Delaware has a rich history of tracking DDL strategy using a modified balanced scorecard framework (see Appendix C for the latest updated version of the Strategy Map). To understand how the LSTA goals work for Delaware, it is important to understand its strategy map.

In compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Museum and Library Services Act as Amended, the following document presents the Delaware Division of Libraries' (DDL) FFY 2023 - 2027 plan for fulfilling the objectives of the LSTA Grants to States program. However, the Plan before you is not limited to the scope of projects, activities, and initiatives that will be carried out using Federal LSTA funds. Rather, the plan provides some context that demonstrates how DDL will pursue its efforts to fulfill its overall mission using a myriad of funding streams ranging from State and federal revenues to non-governmental sources.

While the document does not attempt to be a comprehensive agency strategic plan, it recognizes that the overall ability of the agency to fulfill its LSTA obligations is impacted by everything that the agency does. The reader will find several instances where LSTA funds will be used to determine the best ways to improve the efficiency, consistency, and effectiveness of DDL services. In no instance will LSTA funds be used to supplant state funds, but they may be used to identify, and occasionally to implement best practices and enhanced standards in pursuit of excellence.

This Plan summarizes the needs of Delaware's libraries as well as the library and information needs of Delaware residents. These needs have been identified through an examination of a variety of factors including demographic data, relevant societal indicators, and findings and insights from the recently completed evaluation of DDL's implementation of its 2018 - 2022 LSTA Five-Year Plan. The new 2023 - 2027 LSTA Five-Year Plan sets forth goals and identifies anticipated projects designed to address these needs.

This Plan adopts the IMLS Measuring Success Focal Areas as an organizing principle. Two of the goals directly align with single focal areas. Goal 1 aligns with the INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY focal area and is built on the idea that libraries are the foundation for providing information services in the First State. Goal 2 aligns with the INFORMATION ACCESS focal area. Goal 2 builds on Goal 1 and ensures equitable access to all of the resources provided through the State's libraries and by DDL. Goal 3 addresses two of the focal areas: LIFELONG LEARNING and HUMAN RESOURCES. Goal 3 builds on the first two goals and reflects the results that will be accomplished by fulfilling the intents of the INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY and INFORMATION ACCESS focal areas.

The ***Five-Year State Plan Guidelines for State Library Administrative Agencies 2023 - 2027*** promulgated by IMLS indicates that state plan goals must be prioritized. Therefore, it should be noted that Delaware's goals are presented in inverse order. That is, Goal 3 is of the highest priority. The goals are presented in this fashion to illustrate the point made above that the goals are interdependent. Goal 1 provides the foundation for library and information service

delivery. Goal 2 ensures equity of access. Finally, success in achieving Goal 3 depends on the degree to which Goals 1 and 2 are accomplished.

As the Needs Assessment section has identified, the Delaware libraries face some significant challenges in the coming years. Consequently, even though Goal 3 is viewed as the highest priority, the largest percentage of LSTA funding will likely be devoted to Goal 2.

Summary of Goals

IMLS Measuring Success Focal Area - INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

GOAL 1 - BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES

Delaware residents will be served by local libraries that are technologically advanced and employ knowledgeable, community-focused staff members who incorporate the best professional practices and up-to-date technologies to deliver relevant, consistently high-quality library services.

IMLS Measuring Success Focal Area - INFORMATION ACCESS

GOAL 2 - ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS

Delaware residents will have convenient access to relevant, high-quality information resources in formats that they can to achieve their educational, occupational, and personal/recreational goals.

IMLS Measuring Success Focal Areas - LIFELONG LEARNING, HUMAN RESOURCES

GOAL 3 - BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Delaware residents will have the opportunity to access highly coordinated public services that enable them to achieve their educational, occupational, and personal goals and to participate in and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

GOAL 1 - BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES

Delaware residents will be served by local libraries that are technologically advanced and employ knowledgeable, community-focused staff members who incorporate the best professional practices and up-to-date technologies to deliver relevant, consistently high-quality library services.

Identified Needs Addressed by Goal 1

- Many Delaware libraries are underfunded and lack the resources they need to adequately serve the public and the funding that they need to fairly compensate staff.
- Many Delaware libraries are inadequately staffed and find it difficult to recruit, train, and retain qualified workers.
- Library staffing in Delaware inadequately represents the diversity of the State's population.
- The depth of library resources and the quality and range of services offered by Delaware libraries varies greatly based on location.

Library Services and Technology Act Purposes Addressed by Goal 1

- ❖ Promote continuous improvement in library services in all types of libraries in order to better serve the people of the United States;
- ❖ Enhance the skills of the current library workforce and recruit future professionals, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to the field of library and information services;
- ❖ Enhance the role of libraries within the information infrastructure of the United States in order to support research, education, and innovation;

Grants to States Priorities Addressed by Goal 1

- Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and entities, as described in 20 U.S.C. § 9134(b)(6), for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
- (A) Provide training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership, and advance the delivery of library and information services; and (B) Enhance efforts to recruit future professionals, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to the field of library and information services;
- Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and community-based organizations.

Objective 1.1 - Grow Facilities Capacity

(No LSTA Funds - State funding and ARPA funding through the State)

Potential Projects:

Facilities Development

Timeline: Anticipate ongoing 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Increase in library SF

Objective 1.2 - Enhance & Leverage Library Technology Infrastructure

(State and LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvements (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate ongoing 2023 - 2027

Objective 1.3 - Enhance Library Staff Knowledge & Skills

(Primarily LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Professional Development (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate ongoing 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Surveys of continuing education participants to determine application of concepts/methods

Objective 1.4 - Assess & Address Mechanisms to Streamline Library Governance

(Potential Use of LSTA for Assessment)

Potential Projects:

Governance and Funding Assessment (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2024

Evaluation: Development of actionable recommendations based on information and data gathered

Objective 1.5 - Assess & Address Statewide Library Personnel Needs

(LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Comprehensive Library Staffing Assessment (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2024

Evaluation: Development of actionable recommendations based on information and data gathered

Organizational effectiveness studies and planning (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2024

Evaluation: Research and support studies for improvement with actionable recommendations based on information and data gathered

GOAL 2 - ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS

Delaware residents will have convenient access to relevant, high-quality information resources in formats that they can to achieve their educational, occupational, and personal/recreational goals.

Identified Needs Addressed by Goal 2

- Many Delaware libraries are underfunded and lack the resources they need to adequately serve the public and the funding that they need to fairly compensate staff.
- Library staffing in Delaware inadequately represents the diversity of the State's population.
- The depth of library resources and the quality and range of services offered by Delaware libraries varies greatly based on location.
- Societal factors such as income inequality lead to information needs that are triggered by crisis situations.
- Some Delaware residents are print-disabled and require specialized library services.

Library Services and Technology Act Purposes Addressed by Goal 2

- ❖ Facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry;
- ❖ Encourage resource sharing among all types of libraries for the purpose of achieving economical and efficient delivery of library services to the public;
- ❖ Enable libraries to develop services that meet the needs of communities throughout the Nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers;
- ❖ Promote library services that provide users with access to information through national, State, local, regional, and international collaborations and networks.

Grants to States Priorities Addressed by Goal 2

- Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats (including new and emerging technology), in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and financial literacy and other types of literacy skills;
- Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and entities, as described in 20 U.S.C. § 9134(b)(6), for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
- Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and community-based organizations;
- Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;
- Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 9902(2) of title 42) applicable to a family of the size involved;
- Develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, State, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks.

Objective 2.1 - Resource Enrichment and Sharing

(State and LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Delaware Library Consortium (see APPENDIX A for description)
(covers a host of activities including the Delaware Library Catalog)

Timeline: 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Number of participating libraries. Number of volumes/e-content items, etc. available. Circulation of items by library, by type of

item. Number of holds placed. Number of e-content items downloaded/streamed. Number of items borrowed/loaned.

Objective 2.2 - Provide Access to Library Resources for Individuals with Print Disabilities

(State and LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Delaware Library Access Services (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Number of users of services by type of disability. Number of users of service by preferred format of material. Circulation of materials and e-content (BARD). Number of machines loaned. User satisfaction measured by an annual survey of users.

GOAL 3 - BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Delaware residents will have the opportunity to access highly coordinated public services that enable them to achieve their educational, occupational, and personal goals and to participate in and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

Identified Needs Addressed by Goal 3

- Many Delaware libraries are underfunded and lack the resources they need to adequately serve the public and the funding that they need to fairly compensate staff.
- Societal factors such as income inequality lead to information needs that are triggered by crisis situations.
- Literacy proficiency levels among Delaware's children are unacceptable.
- Numerous organizations in the State have overlapping responsibilities for addressing basic human needs.

Library Services and Technology Act Purposes Addressed by Goal 3

- ❖ Promote continuous improvement in library services in all types of libraries in order to better serve the people of the United States;
- ❖ Facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry;
- ❖ Promote literacy, education, and lifelong learning, including by building learning partnerships with school libraries in our Nation's schools, including tribal schools, and developing resources, capabilities, and programs in support of State, tribal, and local efforts to offer a well-rounded educational experience to all students;
- ❖ Enable libraries to develop services that meet the needs of communities throughout the Nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers;

- ❖ Enable libraries to serve as anchor institutions to support community revitalization through enhancing and expanding the services and resources provided by libraries, including those services and resources relating to workforce development, economic and business development, critical thinking skills, health information, digital literacy skills, financial literacy and other types of literacy skills, and new and emerging technology;
- ❖ Enhance the role of libraries within the information infrastructure of the United States in order to support research, education, and innovation;
- ❖ Encourage, support, and disseminate model programs of library and museum collaboration.

Grants to States Priorities Addressed by Goal 3

- Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats (including new and emerging technology), in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and financial literacy and other types of literacy skills;
- Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and entities, as described in 20 U.S.C. § 9134(b)(6), for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
- Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and community-based organizations;
- Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;
- Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 9902(2) of title 42) applicable to a family of the size involved.

Objective 3.1 - Delaware Communities of Excellence

(No LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Delaware Communities of Excellence (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Partner collaboration to address Equity through Literacy

Objective 3.2 - Delaware Library Social Infrastructure and Social Innovation

(State and LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Delaware Library Social Infrastructure and Social Innovation (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Number and quality of partnerships formed. Number of user contacts. Number of referrals to appropriate agencies including follow-up to determine outcome. Anecdotal reports from librarians and staff of partner agencies.

Objective 3.3 - Lifelong Learning & Enrichment

(Primarily LSTA Funds)

Potential Projects:

Summer Library Reading Program (see APPENDIX A for description)

Timeline: Anticipate Ongoing 2023 - 2027

Evaluation: Number of libraries participating. Number of programs for children. Number of programs for tweens/teens. Number of programs for adults. Number of intergenerational programs. Program attendance by library. Number of unique participants. Number of circulations. Anecdotal reports from participants and parents/caregivers.

Other Lifelong Learning Initiatives

Timeline: As opportunity and funding availability allows

Evaluation: Specific to initiative

COORDINATION EFFORTS

The Plan's narrative organizes all projects for which LSTA funding is anticipated under the IMLS Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents. Additional crosswalk tables displaying these relationships in a graphic format can be found in APPENDIX B.

In addition, the following anticipated Projects will be coordinated with the ***other governmental entities*** listed below:

Focal Area: Lifelong Learning

Department of Energy

Focal Area: Information Access

Delaware Public Archives

Focal Area: Institutional Capacity

Literacy Delaware

Focal Area: Economic & Employment Development

Division of Small Business, Department of Labor

Focal Area: Human Resources

Trauma Matters, Project Thrive

Focal Area: Civic Engagement

Delaware Journalism Collaborative

EVALUATION PLAN

Delaware has an advantage over most other states in the collection of performance measures in that all public libraries as well as some academic, school, and special libraries are participants in the Delaware Library Consortium and share an integrated library system (the Delaware Library Catalog). This provides the Delaware Division of Libraries with a significant unified source of highly-reliable comparable output measures that can be tracked with minimal direct intervention.

Furthermore, the Delaware Division of Libraries has consistently been an innovator in its efforts to use data to inform decision-making. Within the last year DDL started using Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment, which will enable libraries to better gauge the impact of online technology training on individuals. Work is also underway and groundwork has been laid to develop a literacy dashboard that will allow DDL and its literacy partners to monitor activities and to modify efforts to maximize positive outcomes.

Another tool that has been enhanced over time is Delaware Dewey. Using data from the Delaware catalog, Delaware Dewey monitors not only collection use by Dewey category, but also tracks programming and reference activity using the Dewey Decimal System as a convenient tool for measuring the breadth and scope of library service offerings.

DDL's work to position libraries as the community help desk at the heart of the community in partnership with a wide range of strategic partners has resulted in the creation of multiple graphic tools that help organize the contributions that a multitude of agencies can make to enable communities to thrive. This kind of organized approach not only assists libraries in making the right connections, but aids in the task of categorizing the types of aid provided for evaluative purposes.

Basic Needs Chart

1/2020 Draft

	 Food/Nutrition	 Shelter/Housing	 Clothing/Hygiene	 Health/Mental Health	 Technology	 Training/Education Literacy	 Childcare	 Transportation	 Legal	 Employment/Income
	Food Bank DHSS, DOE	Housing	DHSS	DHSS		DOE, Higher Ed	DOE, Office of Early Childhood	DELDOT	Courts	DOL
NEEDS ↑	Food stamps	Storage-Physical items, documents		Specialist appointment						
	Food banks, shelters that serve lunch	Heating assistance	Laundry	Dental & optical coverage		Study skills, workplace skills		Funds for gas or bus tickets	Immigration	Interview Wardrobe
	Meals for children	Rent assistance	Hair cuts	Medicaid	Credit/Debit Card	Computer skills training		License, Insurance	Record expungement	Job & income, financial literacy and management
	Food deserts, insecurity	Transitional, temporary, or substandard housing	Clothing	Insurance	Stable email account	GED	Purchase of Care	DART, bus tickets Bike share	Probation/parole	Benefits
	No shelter	Shoes	Access to doctors, clinics	Substance abuse, PTSD, ACEs, violence, isolation	Cellphone	Illiterate, ESL, no computer skills, no math skills	No childcare available, affordable	Access to transportation, public or private	Outstanding tickets or warrants	Adequate pay
		Coats			State & SSID					Assistance to complete/submit application online
		Showers								

Many other LSTA-funded efforts will be tracked using more traditional mechanisms including pre and post-training event assessments, common output measures and standard metrics employed for tracking materials provided to blind and otherwise print disabled individuals who use the Delaware Access Services program.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The ***Delaware Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Five-Year Plan (2023-2027)*** is based on considerable input from the library community, from the independent evaluators who recently conducted Delaware's LSTA evaluation for 2018 - 2022, and from a variety of other stakeholders. Included in this input is information and data gathered through reviews of State Program Reports (SPR) and Public Libraries Survey (PLS) data, personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, group meetings, and extensive contact between the facilitators of the Plan and the DDL Director/State Librarian and the LSTA Coordinator.

Based on its library assessment credentials, knowledge of LSTA, and significant familiarity with the First State and its libraries, the Delaware Division of Libraries determined to engage QualityMetrics LLC of Silver Spring Maryland to conduct both the required 2018 - 2022 LSTA evaluation and to assist in the development of the 2023 - 2027 LSTA Five-Year Plan.

Consequently, the evaluators were able to efficiently integrate both retrospective and prospective elements into the evaluation process that was also used in the planning processes. The evaluation and planning process began in April 2021 and continued through the submission of this plan. The assessment of DDL's efforts in carrying out the 2018 - 2022 Plan was conducted by QualityMetrics Chief Executive Officer Dr. Martha Kyrillidou assisted by associate researcher William Wilson. The same team assisted in the development of the 2023 - 2027 five-year plan.

In short, ***Delaware's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Five-Year Plan (2023-2027)*** is based on stakeholder input secured through a variety of quality sources over the course of fifteen months..

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

Once the ***Delaware Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Five-Year Plan (2023 - 2027)*** has been approved by IMLS, DDL will post the Plan on the agency website where it will remain throughout the duration of its implementation. DDL leadership will present the Plan to agency staff and the preparation for the implementation of the Plan will commence. Regular updates on progress will be provided to the Delaware Council on Libraries and to the broader library community at periodic Library Town Meeting events.

The Plan's goals may be amended if such an alteration is dictated by community needs. Budgets, specific activities, and anticipated products and services may also be adjusted based on DDL's capacity to carry out the Plan as proposed. Any substantive revisions to the Plan will be submitted to IMLS in accordance with IMLS guidelines and the provisions of the Museum

and Library Services Act. DDL will publicize the achievement of significant milestones identified in the Plan as well as ongoing results of its efforts through its website, through social media outlets, and the use of other means of communication. DDL will also comply with reporting requirements by entering information and data in the SPR. Finally, both achievements and shortcomings will be shared with stakeholders within the state as part of an ongoing effort to improve performance and to increase the positive impact of projects and activities.

MONITORING

The implementation of Delaware's ***Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Five-Year Plan (2023 - 2027)*** will be monitored on a continuous basis. Appropriate Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL) staff will be assigned to track the execution of all aspects of the Plan. Specific staff will be tasked with preparing and generating relevant reports as required as well as to inform decision making. Any sub-grants that are awarded will be tracked and monitored and sub-grantees will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and final reports on the status and results of their projects. This will be supplemented with a combination of on-site monitoring visits, phone calls, emails, and other virtual contact.

All projects, including any sub-grant projects as well as those directly administered by DDL, will be monitored on a regular basis as ongoing activities are conducted, documented, and measured. Information and data collected as part of this process will be used to inform DDL's reporting to IMLS in the annual SPR.

Monitoring will comply with the requirements and procedures outlined in 2 CFR 200.327-332

- 2 CFR 200.327 - Financial Reporting
- 2 CFR 200.328 - Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance
- 2 CFR 200.329 - Reporting on Real Property
- 2 CFR 200.330 - Subrecipient and Contractor Determination
- 2 CFR 200.331 - Requirements for Pass-Through Entities
- 2 CFR 200.332 - Fixed Amount Subawards

ASSURANCES

The following assurances have been submitted with this Plan. See APPENDIX D for Assurance documentation.

Program Assurances for 2023 Grant Award (Includes compliance with Internet Safety; Trafficking in Persons; Nondiscrimination; Debarment and Suspension; Drug-Free Workplace; Federal Debt Status; and Lobbying requirements)

Non-Construction Assurance Form (SF-424B)

State Legal Officer's Certification of Authorized Certifying Official

Internet Safety Certification for Applicant Public Libraries, Public Elementary and Secondary School Libraries and Consortia with Public and/or Public School Libraries

APPENDIX A - PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

GOAL 1 ANTICIPATED LSTA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Technology Infrastructure Maintenance & Improvement

The purpose of this project is to ensure that the infrastructure that supports the Delaware Library Catalog and other technology-based library services is secure, reliable and capable of supporting new and emerging technologies.

Professional Development:

The purpose of the Delaware Division of Libraries' (DDL) Professional Development initiative is to provide a consistent level of quality, up-to-date services at libraries throughout the state.

Governance and Funding Assessment:

The purpose is to investigate the policy, decision-making and support regarding library funding in Delaware.

Comprehensive Library Staffing Assessment:

The purpose of this project is to support a comprehensive study of staffing needs among state libraries. The study will include, but will not be limited to:

- Recommendations for staffing levels by position type (including model job descriptions)
- Compensation
- Benefits
- Recruitment & Retention
- Staff Recognition & other "soft" benefits

Organizational effectiveness studies and planning

The purpose of this project is to support research and development for both the agency and any of the libraries as needed in the coming years for improvement and strategic goal attainment.

GOAL 2 ANTICIPATED LSTA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Delaware Library Consortium:

The purpose of the Delaware Library Consortium is to provide seamless statewide access for all Delawareans to physical and electronic collections and other resources through a single integrated library system (ILS), a single discovery platform for digitized materials, a centralized online library card application, a Delaware Library Consortium mobile app, and a shared statewide calendar.

Delaware Library Access Services:

The purpose of Delaware Library Access Services (DLAS) is to provide Delawareans who are blind or otherwise print-disabled with a full-range of library resources in accessible formats and to connect these individuals with other relevant library resources and services. DLAS is the Delaware regional branch of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) of the Library of Congress (LOC).

GOAL 3 ANTICIPATED LSTA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Delaware Communities of Excellence:

The goal of Delaware Communities of Excellence (DECOE) is to enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans by developing a comprehensive literacy ecosystem that promotes equity and enhances Delawareans' quality of life.

Delaware Libraries Social Infrastructure and Social Innovation:

The goal of Delaware Libraries Social Infrastructure and Social Innovation (SI) is to triage, clarify, and strengthen partnerships in Delaware's social infrastructure to help Delawareans take the next steps in achieving their potential.

Summer Library Reading Program:

The intent of the Summer Library Reading Program (SLRP) is to cultivate a habit of reading and lifelong learning among Delaware residents, based on the library as a key resource.

APPENDIX B - CROSSWALK TABLE

DELAWARE - Goal 1 - Build Strong Libraries Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents Crosswalk

Focal Areas and Intents	Technology Infrastructure Maintenance & Improvement Professional Development Governance & Funding Assessment Comprehensive Library Staffing Assessment			
Lifelong Learning				
Improve users' formal education				
Improve users' general knowledge and skills				
Information Access				
Improve users' ability to discover information resources				
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources				
Institutional Capacity	YES	YES	YES	YES
Improve the library workforce		YES		YES
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure	YES			
Improve library operations			YES	YES
Economic & Employment Development				
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support				
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources				
Human Resources				
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances				
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness				
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills				
Civic Engagement				
Improve users' ability to participate in their community				
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern				

DELAWARE Goal 2 - Ensure Equitable Access Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Delaware Library Consortium	Delaware Library Access Services						
Lifelong Learning								
Improve users' formal education								
Improve users' general knowledge and skills								
Information Access	YES	YES						
Improve users' ability to discover information resources	YES							
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources	YES	YES						
Institutional Capacity								
Improve the library workforce								
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure								
Improve library operations								
Economic & Employment Development								
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support								
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources								
Human Resources								
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances								
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness								
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills								
Civic Engagement								
Improve users' ability to participate in their community								
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern								

DELAWARE Goal 3 - Build Thriving Communities

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Delaware Communities of Excellence	Delaware Library Social Infrastructure & Social Innovation	Lifelong Learning & Enrichment						
Lifelong Learning	YES	YES	YES						
Improve users' formal education									
Improve users' general knowledge and skills	YES	YES	YES						
Information Access									
Improve users' ability to discover information resources									
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources									
Institutional Capacity									
Improve the library workforce									
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure									
Improve library operations									
Economic & Employment Development									
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support									
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources									
Human Resources	YES	YES							
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances		YES							
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness		YES							
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills		YES							
Civic Engagement									
Improve users' ability to participate in their community									
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern									

APPENDIX C - DELAWARE STRATEGY MAP & EVALUATION

OUTCOMES

OVERARCHING GOALS	BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES	ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS	BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES	
CUSTOMER	Embrace Diversity of Customer Abilities & Needs	Ensure Equity in Access & Awareness	Increase Value to Customers & Expand Customer Base	Build Enduring Customer Relationships
PRODUCTS & SERVICES	Improve/Expand Information Resources	Enhance Access to Services	Evaluate the Effectiveness & Consistency of Products and Services	Expand Programs & Strategic Partnerships
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS	Grow Facilities Capacity	Leverage Technologies & Infrastructure	Improve Consistency & Effectiveness	Expand Social Infrastructure and Strategic Partnerships
HUMAN RESOURCES	Recruit, Train, & Retain Qualified Staff	Enhance Staff Abilities & the Relevance of Knowledge & Skill Training	Ensure a Safe and Productive Work Environment	Recognize & Compensate Excellence in Performance
LEARNING & GOVERNANCE	Ensure High Ethical Standards	Streamline Governance	Ensure Excellence in Evaluation & Performance	Ensure Strategic Policies & Partnerships
FINANCIAL	Ensure Data-Driven Decision Making	Reduce/Eliminate Financial Risk	Use Resources Effectively	Grow New Revenues

DATA

OVERARCHING GOALS	BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES	ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS	BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES
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CUSTOMER				
PRODUCTS & SERVICES				
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS				
HUMAN RESOURCES				
LEARNING & GOVERNANCE				
FINANCIAL				

METHODS

OVERARCHING GOALS	BUILD STRONG LIBRARIES	ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS	BUILD THRIVING COMMUNITIES
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CUSTOMER				
PRODUCTS & SERVICES				
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS				
HUMAN RESOURCES				
LEARNING & GOVERNANCE				
FINANCIAL				

