



Wyoming Library Association

P.O. Box 1387
Cheyenne WY 82003
www.wyla.org

Resolution in Support of Increasing LSTA Grants to States Program Funding to \$1 Per Capita

WHEREAS, libraries are essential to a democratic society and are fundamental components of the nation's education system, spurring economic growth and innovation in numerous ways including early literacy development, technology training, job search opportunities, and access to trusted online information resources; and

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and its predecessor programs have helped libraries throughout Wyoming and the United States deliver the library and information services their communities demand; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) have started a "One Dollar Per Capita" campaign to increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Program, the main federal funding source for ongoing library services and programs; and

WHEREAS, one dollar per capita represents a doubling of current funding for the Grants to States program. The current funding for Grants to States is \$164 million. COSLA proposes to increase that funding level to \$325 million. Funding for Grants to States has remained essentially flat for more than 20 years despite rising costs to state library agencies and local libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States program awards Wyoming approximately \$900,000 in federal funds annually that are used to support:

- Online resources for information and learning found on GoWYLD.net;
- Downloadable audiobooks, books, and magazines found on GoWYLD.net;
- Products and services to support the statewide library catalog (WYLDCAT);
- Products and services to support interlibrary loan transactions and management;
- Resource sharing stipends for public and academic libraries;
- Collection development stipends to support library services at the 13 Wyoming State Institutions;
- Funds to convene statewide meetings, provide a wide range of training, and enable state library staff to maintain a high level of knowledge on current and emerging topics.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming Library Association supports COSLA's "One Dollar Per Capita" campaign to increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States Program and will encourage Wyoming's Congressional Delegation to support this investment in the state's and nation's libraries.

Approved by the Executive Board of the Wyoming Library Association on February 7, 2019