

# Federal Funding

in Massachusetts Libraries



## Making a Local Difference

Using federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the MBLC develops grant opportunities for public, school, academic, and special libraries that go beyond what local funding can do.

### Libraries use grants to address:



■ Accessibility for people with vision loss, dementia, or other health related concerns

■ Small business development and assistance for entrepreneurs

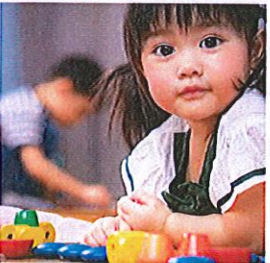
■ English language learning, citizenship classes, and support for immigrants in partnership with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

■ Hands-on learning through artistic and creative experiences in partnership with museums and cultural centers

■ Local history projects that surface regional history, add to the historical heritage, and capture local experiences of underserved or historically marginalized populations.

■ Early learning and social interaction among young children (aged 0-6) and their caregivers

■ Access to archival collections that connect users with Massachusetts' rich and diverse historic collections.



To learn about grants to libraries in your district and statewide initiatives **scan the QR Code** or **visit [mblclsta.com](http://mblclsta.com)**

Contact:

**Robert.Favini@mass.gov**  
*Head of Library Advisory & Development/Government Liaison*

**Lyndsay.Forbes@mass.gov**  
*Project Manager & Grants Specialist*

**Massachusetts Libraries**  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

The MBLC received \$3.6 million in federal LSTA funds in FY2025. In addition to grants and statewide services, the funding supports the E-Rate program, statewide trainings for librarians to increase access for people with vision loss, some staff salaries, and data collection and reporting.



# Statewide

## Programs & Services

### Research Databases

The statewide database program provides critical access to research databases that no community or school system could afford to purchase on its own. On average 60% of database usage comes from schools. **Last year, there were over 9 million full text downloads from these databases, an increase of 12% in just one year.**

### Summer Reading

*\*According to Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education MCAS Results - Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System*

More than **157,000 children, teens, and adults** participated in statewide summer reading programs in partnership with the Boston Bruins. With MCAS reading scores (English Language Art-ELA) for grades 3 through 10 in a three-year downward \*trend, these programs help close the literacy gap, a critical predictor of academic success.

### Libraries.state.ma.us, the consumer website for residents

More than 80% of people coming to the site are new users so the MBLC redesigned it to feature services that appeal to this population such as how to get a library card, do online research, how to access eBooks and audiobooks, and programs and classes for learners of all ages and abilities. **Pageviews have increased 39% since 2021.**

### Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA)



LEA allows Massachusetts library users to access eBooks, audiobooks, and more from 375 libraries from across the Commonwealth. LEA circulation has more than doubled since 2019 with **residents borrowing more than 1.9 million items from LEA in 2024, an increase of 19% in just one year.**

### The Commonwealth Catalog (ComCat)



ComCat gives residents access to millions of items that their own network doesn't have. Items are ordered through ComCat and delivered right to the residents' local library for pick-up. Libraries save money because they don't have to purchase every item residents need. **More than 103,000 items were circulated via ComCat in 2023.**

### Disaster Preparedness & Mitigating Catastrophic Loss

MBLC is a founding partner of Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness for Cultural Heritage in Massachusetts. The MBLC provides training and resources so libraries can minimize the impacts from disasters through risk assessment and mitigation planning.

### MBLC Grants Preserve Historical Collections

Massachusetts libraries are home to historic items that an important part of the Commonwealth's rich cultural heritage. Preserving them and making them accessible to generations to come is the goal of the annual Preservation Assessment Grants from the MBLC.