In 2015-16, Florida received $8,048,596. Those funds were put to use in a variety of ways.

**FEDERAL FUNDS IN FLORIDA**

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds are used in Florida on a statewide level to benefit all of Florida’s residents. Individual libraries and organizations also use LSTA funds on local and regional levels.

**FLORIDA MEMORY**

Florida Memory is an interactive website that provides access to Florida history in the form of more than 539,680 digitized documents, photographs, audio recordings, films and video clips. The site offers the opportunity to explore rich historical treasures from the collections of the State Archives of Florida while increasing the public’s access to primary source materials. In 2015-16, Florida Memory had over 104.9 million views and 31.5 million downloads from all over the world. [floridamemory.com](http://floridamemory.com)

**FLORIDA ELECTRONIC LIBRARY**

The Florida Electronic Library is a collection of electronic resources available 24 hours a day from any location with Internet access. Florida residents can receive free information from the privacy of their home, office or public school on any device. In 2015-16, the Florida Electronic Library had a total of 11,384,164 sessions and 21,775,013 database searches. [flelibrary.org](http://flelibrary.org)

**FLORIDA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

The Florida Library Leadership Program focuses on building and broadening the library leadership skills of participants by expanding their access to information and educational resources, developing public and private partnerships as a means to leverage resources, improving services to diverse populations and targeting services to the underserved. [info.florida.gov/services-for-libraries/more-programs/leadership/](http://info.florida.gov/services-for-libraries/more-programs/leadership/)

**FLORIDA LIBRARY YOUTH PROGRAM**

The Florida Library Youth Program provides information and resources to youth services staff in order to promote services for children, families, tweens and teens in public libraries. Each year, the Bureau of Library Development provides public libraries with program manuals, regional staff development workshops and promotional materials in English and Spanish. Using these resources, local libraries sponsor summer library-based activities, story times and craft programs related to early literacy. In 2015-16, 1,250,367 youths participated in 43,409 programs. [info.florida.gov/services-for-libraries/florida-library-youth-program/](http://info.florida.gov/services-for-libraries/florida-library-youth-program/)

**FLORIDA LIBRARY WEBINARS**

Florida Library Webinars offers web-based training to all current Florida library staff members, helping them better serve the citizens of Florida. Employees have access to an average of three to five live training sessions each week. In 2015-16, Florida Library Webinars provided 975 sessions, and 29,683 staff members participated in live sessions or accessed recorded webinars and tutorials. [floridalibrarywebinars.org](http://floridalibrarywebinars.org)

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

A return on investment study revealed that for every tax dollar received, Florida public libraries provide $10.18 in economic return.
E-GOVERNMENT AND WORKFORCE RECOVERY

The Bureau of Library Development continues to broaden e-government services for Florida libraries by coordinating individual libraries’ e-government projects in accordance with a statewide vision; coordinating creation of statewide e-government web portals; promoting libraries’ development of partnerships with government, non-profit and community agencies; and providing webinars to train library staff on delivering e-government services.

The e-government and employment services roles public libraries play are particularly important for those who have no high-speed Internet or computer access at home, lack technology skills or expertise, or have difficulty understanding and using e-government services.

GET HELP FLORIDA

Get Help Florida is a statewide portal that provides e-government resources for those in need. The site organizes hundreds of resources by category, enabling users to quickly and easily locate agencies that can assist them, regardless of their needs. gethelpflorida.org

RIGHT SERVICE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Right Service at the Right Time is a user-friendly search engine designed to match patrons with the right resources to meet their specific needs. Right Service at the Right Time helps people looking for assistance with daily needs, housing, healthcare, transportation and employment. rightservicefl.org

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Ask a Librarian provides live virtual reference services for Floridians. In 2015-16, Ask a Librarian had 75,291 live, text and email reference sessions – over 206 per day! askalibrarian.org

FLORIDA LIBRARY JOBS

The Florida Library Jobs website helps libraries find librarians and librarians find jobs. In 2015-16, 568 jobs were posted to the site, which served 1,287 active job seekers. floridalibraryjobs.org

E-RATE ASSISTANCE

Libraries received more than $4.16 million, and schools and libraries received a total of $163 million in E-Rate funding in Florida for 2015-16. E-Rate assistance helps libraries obtain the E-Rate telecommunications discounts provided by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. E-Rate also provides support for broadband planning and implementation.

STATEWIDE DELIVERY SERVICE

The statewide delivery service facilitates interlibrary loans by offering pickup and delivery assistance. The Florida Library Ground Delivery Service delivered 230,256 packages of library materials during the 2015-16 program year. tblc.org/programs-and-services/delivery/

EXPANDING LIBRARY SERVICES

The Bureau of Library Development’s core program, Expanding Library Services, assists and supports libraries in Florida. Bureau staff work proactively with local library staff, governing officials, trustees and community participants to ensure that Florida’s public libraries are strong and vigorous. The program improves statewide sharing of library resources. Division staff from several bureaus collaborate to promote digital literacy skills, research electronic resources, implement statewide digitization practices and explore innovation in Florida’s libraries.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

LSTA funds also support activities such as early and adult literacy, college transition and continuing education, fostered by individual libraries and organizations at local and regional levels throughout Florida.

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