

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO
LIBRARY SERVICES AND
TECHNOLOGY ACT
GRANTS TO STATES
FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2023-2027)

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June 28, 2022

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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 so-called “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) Priorities

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.

The following document presents the State Library of Ohio's (SLO) FFY 2023-2027 LSTA Plan for fulfilling the requirements of the LSTA Grants to States program. It summarizes the needs of Ohio's libraries as well as the library and information needs of Buckeye 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 the State Library'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.

VISION

We are a state agency that serves state government, all types of libraries and residents. The vision of the State Library of Ohio is a Smarter Ohio where every Ohioan can access the necessary resources to be engaged citizens, excel at their jobs, participate in the workforce, and pursue their passions and interests.

MISSION STATEMENT

The State Library of Ohio ensures a smarter Ohio by managing the delivery of services through three channels:

Raising Awareness: Directly, by building and managing quality collections and providing hands-on service to state government

Widening Access: Cooperatively, through collaborative efforts and information sharing networks within the library community

Leading Innovation: Virtually, through online and on-the-go access to expert assistance, digitized resources, and a vast selection of electronic materials

State Librarian Wendy Knapp states, “Libraries of all types provide a pillar for democracy that ensure educated and informed citizenry. The State Library of Ohio provides library service to state employees and residents as well as a buttress for libraries of all types across the state. The opportunity afforded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services by the Library Services and Technology Act allows the library community of Ohio to remain a national leader.” A new State Library of Ohio strategic plan will be developed building on the LSTA Five-Year Plan so priorities, programs and services in both documents may complement and build upon each other.

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 Ohio government websites, as well as the results of the recently completed LSTA Evaluation 2018-2022.

Some national-level 2020 Census results to understand how Ohio compares with other areas include:

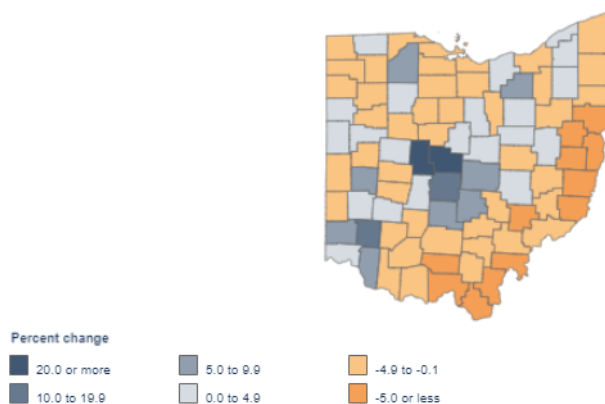
- Population (up 7.4% to 331.4 million).
- Race and ethnicity (White alone 61.6%; Black alone 12.4%; Hispanic 18.7%; Asian alone 6%; American Indian and Alaska Native alone 1.1%; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone 0.2%; Some Other Race alone 8.4%; Two or More Races 10.2%).
- Diversity Index (61.1%, up from 54.9%).
- Under-18 (down 1.4%) and adult population (up 10.1%).

- Housing units (up 6.7%) and vacancies (down to 9.7%).²

Employment rate is similar to the national average; educational attainment is slightly higher than the national average. However, there are many differences across the different areas of Ohio (Appendix A provides a brief yet more detailed demographic review and a lengthy table of comparisons with national statistics among other useful details). It would be important for the state library to monitor which areas in Ohio may need more programming in younger ages and which ones may need programming in older adults, for example, utilizing the Census website that provides data on a county by county basis and age.

Total Population (2020): 11,799,448	Housing Units (2020): 5,242,524
Numeric Change in Population (2010–2020): 262,944	Housing Unit Vacancy Rate (2020): 8.3%
Percent Change in Population (2010–2020): 2.3%	Percent Change in Housing Units (2010–2020): 2.2%

Percent Change in Population for Ohio Counties: 2010–2020



Libraries in Ohio

Libraries in Ohio (see Appendix B for a detailed description) are known for their quality services and the annual Public Library Survey indicators below speak to that strength. Ohio libraries rank at the top position for many per capita indicators (operating revenue, collection expenditures, library visits, circulation among others); and, they rank 13th in print materials per capita and programs offered per 1,000 population.

Public Libraries Survey (2019) Metrics	Ohio Rank	Ohio	United States
Total Library Operating Revenue per Capita	2	\$79.84	\$44.88

² <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/ohio-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

Public Libraries Survey (2019) Metrics	Ohio Rank	Ohio	United States
Collection Expenditures per Capita	1	\$9.24	\$4.51
Library Visits per Capita	1	5.91	3.93/capita
Print Materials per Capita	13	3.30	2.17/capita
Circulation per Capita	1	15.56	6.86/capita
Programs Offered per 1,000 Population	13	26.82	18.65/ 1,000 pop.
Total Paid Full-Time Equivalent Staff per 25,000 Population	1	20.58	11.37/ 25,000 pop.
Percentage of Paid Full-Time Equivalent Staff with ALA-Accredited Master's Degree		21.72%	23.64%
Percentage of Public Library Jurisdictions with ALA-Accredited Master's Personnel		71.71%	45.53%

The LSTA Evaluation 2018-2022 noted how many libraries are taking on an increasing role as social organizations. This includes enabling every Ohioan to participate fully in the current knowledge, information services, and technology environment, and addresses issues of societal equity and inclusion. Programming in Ohio libraries are designed to meet patron needs and staff training; libraries are at the center of their communities. Ohio has realized enormous benefits from the cooperative culture of its libraries. Public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as museums, must continue to develop and expand their cooperative endeavors. Effective partnerships with other government and not-for-profit organizations are also critical. LSTA funding can provide vital assistance in achieving this expanding mission.

Summary of Needs

Below is a summary of needs based on the examination of all the sources of data mentioned:

- Library programming in Ohio meets different needs in rural areas versus more suburban and urban centers (what is innovative in Columbus and Cleveland is not the innovative solution for the Appalachian region).
- Understanding which public libraries need to develop more focused services for serving the elderly while not ignoring the youth and which ones need to invest more in youth, Pre-K and K-12, services is important for continuing to deliver the high quality services the residents need.
- Unemployment rates are different in different regions and the need for retraining varies - certain libraries can benefit more from job training and employment services and specific types of training in different regions. Partnerships with businesses, government, and academic organizations can help shape answers to these questions.
- Addressing the library programmatic needs for those experiencing homelessness or poverty is another area of need; providing training for library staff working in those areas and ensuring partnership opportunities exist with other social agencies.

- Related to this area is a broader need for libraries to provide services that address mental health issues confronting patrons and staff; provide systematic educational awareness and training to address mental health issues, including evaluating the benefits of employing social workers in libraries.
- Although the immigrant population does not appear to be expanding rapidly in Ohio, this is a state of diverse ethnic backgrounds and support for immigrant and citizenship services can be beneficial.
- During the evaluation phase, the need for facilities renovations was mentioned more than once even though this is not an allowable LSTA expense; LSTA funds can be used for planning and designing changes in library spaces.
- Supporting libraries that help residents overcome the remaining gaps in digital access, including access to technology and the internet is a critical need.
- Collaboration between libraries and other cultural heritage organizations can benefit from a more strategic statewide approach and there is a need for a statewide strategic plan that addresses preservation and use of the record of cultural heritage in both documentary and artifactual form; there is a need to explore the roles of the State Library, public and academic libraries, and museums in addressing such issues collaboratively. This could also serve as a means to develop more general collaborations between libraries and museums.

In summary, there is a need to more closely examine statewide capacity building investments in relation to LSTA goals and the IMLS Measuring Success framework; a more detailed and nuanced perspective would benefit the state and encourage development of services and programs that address different needs in regions and residents.

GOALS OVERVIEW

- GOAL 1 Learning: Educating Ohioans for Success
- GOAL 2 Building Community Capacity and Engagement
- GOAL 3 Strengthening Libraries

GOAL 1 Learning: Educating Ohioans for Success

Central to this goal is ensuring that all residents of the State of Ohio are knowledgeable in their access and use of contemporary information resources and technologies in relation to libraries, both school and public ones. In addressing this mission, principal attention will be directed at students, from pre-kindergarten through high school, but families and adult learners will also be included. Particular focus will be given to ensuring inclusion of those in rural locales and those disadvantaged by their income levels, physical disabilities, and racial or language differences.

Projects will range from significant pre-K education efforts to a broad range of K-12 initiatives, STEM and STEAM education efforts, along with introduction to VR, audiovisual, and

makerspace technologies. Student education will be augmented by digital literacy projects, which frequently have a community audience as well. Digital literacy training is essential in ensuring every Ohioan has the capacity to employ digital tools and networking in their education, career, and communication.

Particular attention will be given to summer library programs in an effort to compensate for summer learning loss and augment STEM/STEAM opportunities within libraries. Children and teens who participate in summer reading programs benefit from many engaging activities which promote literacy development and student learning and help to counter summer slide. Summer library programs enhance lifelong learning and provide meaningful, enjoyable experiences available to everyone in the community. For the first few years of the plan, this support will help address the learning loss that the COVID pandemic wrought.

Objective 1.1 Improve users' formal education

Lifelong Learning: Improve users' formal education

Project 1.1.1 Enhance pre-K to K-12 education initiatives

Summary: This set of projects support curriculum needs and learning goals for preschool and school-aged children, partnerships of public, academic, and school libraries, and opportunities for services that bring different educational stakeholders together exposing and making more effective use, and sometimes production, of information resources.

Audience: Most participants are school-aged children

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Enhance the reading readiness of pre-school children and achievement of school-aged children. A secondary outcome is modeling behaviors for teachers, parents/caregivers and providing opportunities for adults and children to interact around books.

Evaluation: Count number of people who participated in pre-K to K-12 education initiatives; gather qualitative participant observations and comments.

Project 1.1.2 Support VR, audiovisual, makerspace and related technologies

Summary: This set of projects provides equipment as well as service modeling of new technologies (VR, audiovisual and makerspace technologies are some specific examples) for formal learning settings.

Audience: Children and adults

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Support the development of technology based services used by children and/or adults.

Evaluation: Count number of people who engage with VR, audiovisual, makerspace and related technologies in schools and formal education settings; gather qualitative observations and comments.

Project 1.1.3 Summer reading

Summary: Support summer reading activities with rich family engagement components.

Audience: Preschool and school aged children

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Summer reading prevents summer skill loss; in combination with family engagement, the beneficial outcomes are spread across the age spectrum of engaged adults and children.

Evaluation: Count number of people who participated in reading programs; participants may report they experienced a change in knowledge, skills, attitude, behavior, or life condition.

Objective 1.2 Improve users' general knowledge and skills

Lifelong Learning: Improve users' general knowledge and skills

Project 1.2.1 Digital literacy training

Summary: This project supports the provision of technology equipment, training sessions, career support services and communication related to digital literacy training activities.

Audience: Libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Increased knowledge and comfort with digital objects and services; satisfaction with digital literacy training.

Evaluation: Count number of people who participated in digital literacy training; equipment purchased, consultations; participants may report they experienced a change in knowledge, skills, attitude, behavior, or life condition.

Project 1.2.2 Digital literacy training needs in rural Ohio libraries

Summary: Targeting the specific needs of libraries and residents of rural Ohio libraries, this project parallels the activities of 1.2.1 in the context of the most needy and more sparsely populated areas in Ohio. It may include projects like Guiding Ohio Online, a project that places digital literacy trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver digital literacy training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment.

Audience: Libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Every Ohioan can participate in online government, search and apply for jobs online, understand the risks and benefits of internet finance, connect with family online, and protect personal information in the digital age.

Evaluation: Number of trainers supported and number of interactions/support sessions they held; Count number of people who participated in digital literacy training focused in rural Ohio libraries; equipment purchased, consultations; participants may report they experienced a change in knowledge, skills, attitude, behavior, or life condition.

Project 1.2.3 VR, audiovisual, makerspace, and related technologies

Summary: This set of projects provides equipment as well as service modeling of new technologies (VR, audiovisual and makerspace technologies are some specific examples) for informal learning settings.

Audience: Children and adults

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Support the development of technology based services used by children and/or adults.

Evaluation: Count number of people who engage with VR, audiovisual, makerspace and related technologies in informal learning spaces; gather qualitative observations and comments.

Objective 1.3 Other Subgrants on formal and informal learning

Summary: This project is for subgrants that support formal and informal educational needs in new and innovative ways.

Audience: Residents of all ages; Libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Improved formal and informal education, learning achievement, fun and engagement with learning.

Evaluation: Count number of libraries, people, and engagements; collect data using the IMLS appropriate outcomes based evaluation questions.

GOAL 2 Building Community Capacity and Engagement

Comprehensive community engagement will be realized through inclusive access to knowledge and ideas, preservation and discovery of cultural heritage, and support for community wellbeing. Project area objectives will be accomplished through specific initiatives, but projects will, in combination, enable libraries in contributing to achievement of common societal intellectual, artistic, social, health, and economic aspirations.

Objective 2.1 Sustain Collaborative Access to Information Services

Critical aspects include central administration of integrated systems, support for regional consortial endeavors, collaborative licensing of information resources, and conducting hands-on training in the use of information services and tools.

Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Center support has provided an Integrated Library System for 93 library systems in 243 locations in 47 counties with a population of 1.7 million. The SEO Library Center can also be a circulation hub for library materials of all types, for all types of libraries. County-wide consortia also support use of common technology platforms, access to statewide networks, and expanded interlibrary lending.

The Ohio Digital Library is a digital consortium of 182 Ohio libraries. The libraries share a collection of digital media that includes eBooks, audio books, magazines, music, and video. This statewide initiative helps libraries provide these services at a considerable savings.

The three statewide information network providers (INFOhio, OPLIN, and OhioLINK) come together to provide a common set of reference resources to every user of every school, public, or academic library in Ohio, accessible within the library, at home, or at work. Objectives are: to guarantee that Ohio residents will have a core set of information resources necessary to compete in the global economy and improve their quality of life as we move into the 21st century; to provide this resource to all Ohio residents, regardless of where they go to school or live; and to maximize the efficiency of the investment in necessary information resources.

Guiding Ohio Online has placed digital literacy trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. The vision is for every Ohioan to be able to fully participate in online government, search and apply for jobs online, understand the risks and benefits of internet finance, connect with family online, and protect personal information in the digital age. Trainers focused digital literacy training in areas of Ohio hardest hit by poverty and joblessness.

Objective 2.2 Discover and Preserve Cultural Heritage

The State Library of Ohio will exercise leadership in cooperation with libraries of all types and with archives and museums to identify, manage, preserve, and expand use and understanding of the historic and artistic record of Ohio. This collaboration is illustrative of today's GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) initiatives, and such partnerships create new cultural aggregations and respond to increased interest in documentary sources.

The State Library of Ohio has exercised leadership in this area through their digitization of state governmental records and their management of born-digital records. Ohio Memory was launched in March 2009 and is the primary repository for both born-digital and digitized content for the State Library. Additionally, more than 360 cultural heritage organizations from all 88 Ohio counties contribute to Ohio Memory. The State Library of Ohio administers the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub for Ohio, known as the Ohio Digital Network (ODN). As of February 2022, there were more than 280,000 items from 34 Ohio institutions in DPLA.

The 2023-2027 Plan will reflect an expansion of cultural heritage activities in Ohio with the creation of a strategic plan for cultural heritage preservation and expanded access and use statewide. This plan will broadly enable physical conservation and digitization and will strive to fully document the diversity of past and present society.

Objective 2.3 Support Libraries as Community Anchor Institutions

As libraries evolve in the 21st century, they are taking on additional roles in response to the social and cultural needs of their communities. This new profile retains the educational and research roles traditionally associated with libraries, but is also reflective of the capacity of libraries to fulfill a broader social role for their communities.

As social centers, public libraries often provide young children and their caregivers with an inviting and stimulating atmosphere. After school, older children can find a place to study, see friends, and participate in specialized programming. Working adults can take advantage of publicly-accessible meeting spaces, and for older adults, it can be a supportive environment providing community activities. Some libraries are also becoming arts centers, providing training and opportunities for display and performance.

In addressing professional and economic development, the library can be a job training and employment center. Technology training can prove essential. Assistance with tax preparation and other financial issues can be provided. Immigration and citizenship services are important in addressing the changing demographics of some communities.

In addressing the mental health needs of patrons and colleagues, staff should be provided with better understanding of the basic facts and with crisis handling tips. Staff need help in dealing with the compassion fatigue, fear, and anxiety many employees experience. Employment of social workers to provide assistance in addressing a spectrum of health issues is expanding. Similarly, some libraries must develop services and training to address homelessness.

All of these and related services are critical to the IMLS Measures of Success, and LSTA funding can provide vital assistance in creating successful models. These models are largely seen as being employed in public libraries, but academic libraries face similar challenges and must develop comparable strategies. In combination, they establish libraries as anchors for their communities.

Objective 2.4 Foster Equitable Access for All

Equity of access is a vital component in the vision for libraries, and both the State Library of Ohio and IMLS are committed to this principle. Service to the print disabled is a central focus of this commitment, but the needs of others, such as the physically disabled and the elderly, must also be addressed in fulfilling this commitment.

Ohio maintains a unique approach to its implementation of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled program. Services to the visually impaired and to other individuals who are unable to use standard print materials are supported through two separate and recurring LSTA projects. What is known as the Talking Book Program is housed at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled operates out of a building owned and operated by the Cleveland Public Library.

The Talking Book Program coordinates services to the print disabled statewide, acts as a machine lending and repair agency, and works with local libraries, institutions, and advocacy/support organizations. The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled serves as the distribution agent for talking books and Braille as well as coordinating the Braille and Audio Reading Download program. This hybrid approach has enabled two organizations, which share a unified vision and goal, to work in a complementary and effective manner.

All libraries must implement Universal Design standards enabling functional and programmatic access for the physically disabled. Specialized workstations addressing these needs and those of learning-disabled individuals are also essential. Employing creative signage and having staff with multiple language abilities can address linguistic differences.

Physical access to library services remains important to patrons, and LSTA subgrants have supported creative solutions addressing this need. These have included the Amesville Locker Library Project, the Expanding Accessibility - Hanover Library-In-A-Box Project, and the Library on the Lake Project. Evidence suggests that these imaginative alternatives are appreciated and well used by patrons in underserved areas. Service to the growing number of elderly residents in Ohio may best be addressed through expanded courier services.

Paramount in achieving equitable access is further expansion and enabling of the use of the internet.

Objective 2.1 Sustain Collaborative Access to Information Services

Information Access: Improve users' ability to discover information resources

Institutional Capacity: Improve library operations

Project 2.1.1 Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Center

Summary: Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Center will support an Integrated Library System serving as the central administration for the support and maintenance of the required software and services. The SEO Library Center can also be a circulation hub for library materials of all types, for all types of libraries.

Audience: Individual libraries achieving operational savings and their patrons sharing access to common resources

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Maintaining a single-site system saves libraries the costs of hosting and the need for staff with specialized technical skills, benefitting nearly a hundred library systems statewide. These savings can exceed \$6 million annually. Additionally, the SEO Library Center can maintain a floating collection for statewide resource sharing.

Evaluation: More libraries statewide employ a common Integrated Library System achieving operational efficiencies and providing increased patron circulation for shared resources.

Project 2.1.2 Ohio Digital Library

Summary: The Ohio Digital Library is a digital consortium of 182 Ohio libraries sharing a collection of digital media. The State Library of Ohio will act as Project Manager, and State Library and the SEO Library Center staff will provide support to individual libraries, communicate with the vendor(s), facilitate new member registration, provide resource materials for member libraries, and coordinate the purchases for the consortium.

Audience: Libraries achieving efficiencies through consortial services and resource purchases

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: This statewide project helps libraries provide access to digital media including eBooks, audio books, magazines, music, and video at a considerable savings.

Evaluation: More libraries statewide and their patrons share a growing collection of digital media.

Project 2.1.3 Statewide information network providers

Summary: Three statewide information networks (INFOhio, OPLIN, and OhioLINK) provide a common set of reference resources to every user of every school, public, or academic library via the Ohio Web Library.

Audience: All Ohio residents

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Guarantee that Ohio residents will have a core set of information resources necessary to compete in the global economy and improve their quality of life and to provide this resource to all, regardless of where they go to school or live.

Evaluation: Common set of reference sources is available in all types of libraries.

Project 2.1.4 Assist regional consortia supporting common technology platforms to access statewide networks and expand interlibrary lending

Summary: Public libraries join in county-wide consortia to expand access to materials and resources throughout the individual library service areas through shared platforms and statewide access to materials through lending and borrowing partnerships.

Audience: County residents

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: County-wide consortia support use of common technology platforms, access to statewide networks, and expanded interlibrary lending.

Evaluation: County-wide consortia support increased use of common technology platforms, access to statewide networks, and expanded interlibrary lending.

Objective 2.2 Discover and Preserve Cultural Heritage

Information Access: Improve users' ability to discover information resources

Information Access: Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources

Civic Engagement: Improve users' ability to participate in their community

Project 2.2.1 Identify, preserve, and expand use of the historic and artistic record of Ohio

Summary: The State Library of Ohio will exercise leadership in cooperation with libraries of all types and with archives and museums to identify, manage, preserve, and expand use and understanding of the historic and artistic record of Ohio.

Audience: All Ohio residents

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: This collaboration is illustrative of today's GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) initiatives, and such partnerships create new cultural aggregations and respond to increased interest in documentary sources.

Evaluation: Increases in the number of resources available and increases in their usage.

Project 2.2.2 Manage and expand use of state government records, both digitized and born-digital

Summary: The State Library of Ohio exercised leadership through their digitization of state governmental records and their management of born-digital records.

Audience: State government agencies and individuals seeking access to state government records

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: State agencies, citizens, and researchers are well-served in their access to state government information

Evaluation: Digitization and electronic records management are being employed and the use of these records increases.

Project 2.2.3 Ohio Memory and cultural heritage organization partnerships

Summary: Ohio Memory was launched in March 2009 and is the primary repository for both born-digital and digitized content for the State Library and more than 360 contributing cultural heritage organizations from all 88 Ohio counties.

Audience: State Library and state cultural heritage organizations

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: An inclusive statewide approach to cultural heritage preservation and use

Evaluation: Strategic planning among libraries, archives, and museums ensures an inclusive documentary record, and Ohio Memory is used as a common digital repository.

Project 2.2.4 Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hub for Ohio

Summary: The State Library of Ohio administers the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub for Ohio, known as the Ohio Digital Network (ODN). As of February 2022, there were more than 280,000 items from 34 Ohio institutions in DPLA.

Audience: Libraries, archives, and museums and interested users worldwide

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Networked access to a continually growing aggregation of Ohio's documentary record

Evaluation: The number of historical repositories contributing to DPLA increases annually and global use of documentary information expands worldwide.

Objective 2.3 Support Libraries as Community Anchor Institutions

Economic & Employment Development: Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support

Human Resources: Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances

Human Resources: Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness

Civic Engagement: Improve users' ability to participate in their community

Project 2.3.1 Expand the role of libraries in addressing additional social needs of their communities

Summary: Libraries take on additional roles in response to the social needs of their communities. This new profile retains the educational and research roles traditionally associated with libraries, but is also reflective of the capacity of libraries to fulfill a broader social role.

Audience: Library administrators and staff and the communities they serve

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Libraries realize an expanded role as social service providers for their communities.

Evaluation: Library staff embrace this expanding role and community members are trusting in seeking this support in growing numbers.

Project 2.3.2 Serve as social centers for residents ranging in age from pre-kindergarten to older adults

Summary: Public libraries provide young children and their caregivers with an inviting and stimulating atmosphere. After school, older children can find a place to study, see friends, and participate in specialized programming. Working adults can take advantage of publicly-accessible meeting spaces, and for older adults, it can be a supportive environment providing community activities.

Audience: Every potential user of public libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Public libraries are social centers for their communities.

Evaluation: Libraries experience a continuous and changing range of patrons throughout each day and are prepared to support their varying social needs.

Project 2.3.3 Promote professional and economic development through job training and employment services and assist with tax preparation

Summary: In addressing professional and economic development, the library can be a job training and employment center. Assistance with tax preparation and other financial issues can also be provided.

Audience: All members of the community needing these services

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Community members develop employable skill sets and learn to apply effectively for jobs. At appropriate times of the year, community members can receive tax preparation assistance.

Evaluation: The library is recognized as an employment center and has appropriate partnerships and staffing to fulfill this role and assist with tax preparation.

Project 2.3.4 Provide immigration and citizenship services in areas of demographic change

Summary: Immigration and citizenship services are provided in areas of changing demographics.

Audience: Immigrants

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Immigrants receive useful information and assistance regarding their immigration and citizenship status and awareness of public assistance services.

Evaluation: New immigrants increasingly turn to the library as a trusted source of information.

Project 2.3.5 Train staff to address mental health needs of patrons and colleagues, supporting people experiencing homelessness, and providing improved understanding and crisis handling tips

Summary: In addressing the mental health needs of patrons and colleagues, staff should be provided with better understanding of the basic facts and with crisis handling tips. Staff need help in dealing with the compassion fatigue, fear, and anxiety many employees experience. Employment of social workers to provide assistance in addressing a spectrum of health issues should be considered. Similarly, some libraries must develop services and training to address homelessness.

Audience: Staff addressing mental health needs of patrons and colleagues, dealing with compassion fatigue, fear, and anxiety, and supporting the needs of homeless individuals.

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: The library and its staff are well prepared to address a variety of mental health challenges. Library employment of social workers is evaluated and implemented as needed. The library's role in addressing homeless patrons is understood and effectively conducted.

Evaluation: Staff feel comfortable in their ability to provide support and cope with crisis situations.

Objective 2.4 Foster Equitable Access for All

Lifelong Learning: Improve users' general knowledge and skills

Information Access: Improve users' ability to discover information resources

Information Access: Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources

Project 2.4.1 Manage implementation of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled for the visually impaired

Summary: The Talking Book Program coordinates services to the print disabled statewide, acts as a machine lending and repair agency, and works with local libraries, institutions, and advocacy/ support organizations. The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled serves as the distribution agent for talking books and Braille as well as coordinating the Braille and audio reading download program.

Audience: The visually impaired and to other individuals who are unable to use standard print materials

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Ensuring inclusive access to programs offering a diversity of media assisting the visually impaired in their pursuit and use of information.

Evaluation: Uniform access to machine lending and repair and inclusive availability of Braille, talking books, and audio reading downloads.

Project 2.4.2 Promote Universal Design standards enabling functional and programmatic access for the physically disabled

Summary: All libraries must implement Universal Design standards enabling functional and programmatic access for the physically disabled. Specialized workstations addressing these needs and those of learning-disabled individuals are also essential.

Audience: Individuals with physical disabilities and those with learning-disabilities.

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Ensuring equitable physical and programmatic access to libraries and their resources.

Evaluation: All libraries are aware of Universal Design standards and functional support applications and are developing plans to address inadequacies.

Project 2.4.3 Expand physical access to collections through specialized service locations in underserved areas and expand courier services for the elderly

Summary: Implement creative solutions offering alternative locations and times for physical access to library services. Evidence suggests that these imaginative alternatives are appreciated and well used by patrons in underserved areas. Service to the growing number of elderly residents in Ohio may best be addressed through expanded courier services.

Audience: Those living in underserved areas and the growing number of elderly residents

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Guaranteeing equitable access in all areas of the state and for the elderly.

Evaluation: Access points and courier services have been expanded.

Project 2.4.4 Expand and enable broader use of the internet

Summary: Provide expanded hours and locations for internet access and networked services and encourage public agency collaborations in expanding basic accessibility.

Audience: All those individuals with inadequate internet access

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Addressing this major information access inadequacy for a major segment of the state's population.

Evaluation: Hours and locations of user access are expanded and public agencies collaborate to broaden accessibility.

Objective 2.5 Other Subgrants on capacity and engagement

Summary: Additional subgrants that programmatically support the Goal.

Audience: Library professionals working in partnership with a diverse array of public agencies and the broad spectrum of residents potentially benefiting from an expanded range of societal services.

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Comprehensive community engagement will be realized through inclusive access to knowledge and ideas, preservation and discovery of cultural heritage, and support for community wellbeing, enabling libraries in contributing to achievement of common intellectual, artistic, social, health, and economic aspirations.

Evaluation: Number participants engaged in programs reflective of a broad and evolving role for libraries: qualitative data using IMLS questionnaire.

GOAL 3 Strengthening Libraries

Fundamental to achieving the mission of the State Library of Ohio and in comprehensively addressing the IMLS Measures for Success is the scope of library capabilities statewide and the underlying capacity of those libraries to actively contribute in realizing these shared goals. Strengthening the ability of all public, academic, school, and special libraries in 2023-2027 will be accomplished through a combination of effective Strategic Planning, compilation and use of Public Library Statistics, support for the Regional Library System, and systematic Professional Development.

The State Library has employed their staff in acting as consultants in strategic planning. Effective long-range planning addresses the needs of the community. These needs are identified through consultant support in developing community surveys, compiling data, and conducting focus groups. Space planning initiatives assist libraries in utilizing their facilities in a manner that will address the goals of their strategic plan and meet community needs. In space planning, libraries seek to improve programs and services and become community hubs. Additionally, consultants work to facilitate partnerships among libraries and other education providers.

Public Library Statistics collects data from Ohio's 251 public libraries as part of the national PLS (Public Library Survey) and as required by the Ohio Revised Code. All 251 public libraries in Ohio submit data to the PLS. The State Library has been partnering with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) to count usage of statewide databases. OPLIN provides statewide data numbers for all 251 library systems and ensures that these numbers are counted in the same way across Ohio. Data from the public library survey is widely used for many purposes at the local, state, and national level, including other libraries, the State Auditor's office, local media outlets, library organizations, and federal agencies.

The State Library has provided special grants to each of the four Regional Library Systems (RLS) to support programs and services related to continuing education, innovative technology, or services to special populations. Education is the primary mission of the RLS, and webinars on topics such as pandemic fatigue, overcoming fear, and general professional development for library staff were provided. RLS support has also enabled purchase of books, video games, and technology components to update and augment circulating collections in the areas of STEM/STEAM,

Early Literacy, Video Games, Memory Kits, Sign Language, Telecommuting, and Book Discussion. The Ohio RLS also purchased laptops and software to work at home and accommodate patrons during the pandemic.

Professional development focuses on both leadership development and on general staff education and training. The purpose of Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) and ILEAD is to develop future leaders for all types of Ohio libraries, to help Ohio library staff become leaders in the communities they serve, and to encourage Ohio librarians and library professionals to work collaboratively to support the mission of the State Library and the purposes of LSTA within their institutions. General support for a diversity of staff education and training improves the capacity of libraries to offer learning opportunities to their staff that are high quality, easy-to-access, and cost-effective. Enhancing and enriching the quality of library employment for all staff is a vital component of the underlying value of libraries.

Objective 3.1 Improve the Library Workforce

Institutional Capacity: Improve the library workforce

Project 3.1.1 Develop future leaders for all types of libraries, helping library staff become leaders in the communities they serve and encouraging collaboration

Summary: Library Leadership Ohio is designed to develop future leaders for all types of Ohio libraries and to help library staff become leaders in the communities they serve and to recruit staff reflective of those communities.

Audience: Current and future leaders from all types of libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Developing diverse ongoing leadership supportive of their communities and the goals of the State Library and LSTA initiatives.

Evaluation: Leadership programs attract strong cohorts, and attendees find the programs effective.

Project 3.1.2 Support a diversity of staff education and training, offer learning opportunities that are high quality, easy-to-access, and cost-effective

Summary: Support a diversity of staff education and training and improve the capacity of libraries to offer effective learning opportunities to their staff

Audience: All libraries of all types and their staff

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: The quality of the library workforce is enhanced and staff are prepared to embrace evolving roles in their communities.

Evaluation: All library staff have the opportunity to participate in staff education and training.

Objective 3.2 Improve the Library's Physical and Technology Infrastructure

Institutional Capacity: Improve the library's physical and technology infrastructure

Project 3.2.1 Provide grants to the Regional Library Systems to support continuing education and innovative technology and equipment

Summary: Support is provided to each of the four Regional Library Systems (RLS) to support programs and services related to continuing education, innovative technology, or services to special populations. The Ohio RLS also purchased laptops and software to work at home and accommodate patrons during the pandemic

Audience: Libraries in each region.

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Libraries receive continuing education and special support for the purchase of books, video games, and technology components to update and augment collections and services.

Evaluation: In each region, the RLS are viewed as effective contributors to library success.

Project 3.2.2 Assist libraries in utilizing their facilities in a manner that will address the goals of their strategic plans and meet community needs

Summary: In space planning, libraries seek to improve programs and services and become a community hub. This is accomplished by assessing and making recommendations on developing inviting spaces for targeted areas in the library, such as children's areas, teen areas, makerspaces, and local history rooms.

Audience: Every library of every type

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Libraries align their spatial organization with their strategic program goals.

Evaluation: Libraries evaluate their space use in terms of their mission and strategic goals.

Objective 3.3 Improve Library Operations

Institutional Capacity: Improve library operations

Project 3.3.1 Provide consultants to assist in strategic planning, including developing community surveys, compiling data, and conducting focus groups

Summary: The State Library employs their staff in acting as consultants in strategic planning that addresses the long-term needs of the community. These needs are identified through consultant support in developing community surveys, compiling data, and conducting focus groups.

Audience: All public libraries

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Libraries have sufficient knowledge of community needs to conduct ongoing strategic planning.

Evaluation: Have libraries chosen to utilize consultant data compilations in their planning.

Project 3.3.2 Public Library Statistics providing statewide annual census for all 251 library systems and ensuring consistent information reporting

Summary: Collect data from Ohio's 251 public libraries as part of the national PLS (Public Library Survey) and as required by the Ohio Revised Code. All 251 public libraries in Ohio submit data to the PLS. The State Library has been partnering with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) to count usage of statewide databases. OPLIN provides statewide data numbers for all 251 library systems and ensures that these numbers are counted in the same way across Ohio.

Audience: Data from the public library survey is widely used for many purposes at the local, state, and national level, including other libraries, the State Auditor's office, local media outlets, library organizations, and federal agencies. Counting all of the statewide database usage in the same way ensures the most accurate information possible.

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Consistently reliable data is available for comprehensive planning and evaluation.

Evaluation: Must be conducted each year.

Objective 3.4 Other Subgrants on strengthening libraries

Summary: Additional subgrants that programmatically support the Goal.

Audience: Libraries and library staff

Timetable: Anticipated ongoing 2023-2027

Desired Outcomes: Programmatic and operational strengthening of libraries.

Evaluation: Number of programs and participants: qualitative data using IMLS questionnaire.

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 as well as the relationships to LSTA Purposes and Priorities in a graphic format can be found in APPENDIX B.

APPENDIX C includes a representative and non-exhaustive listing of partnerships the State Library of Ohio has established over the years with other agencies and organizations around the state for the benefit of library operations. Library collaboration has its birthplace in Ohio as reflected in the long standing establishment of OCLC and the rich tradition continues as vibrant and meaningful as it ever existed.

EVALUATION PLAN

The LSTA Five-Year Plan is reviewed annually by State Library staff to make sure that all program targets are being met. If adjustments are needed to either program targets, the programs themselves (based on changing needs within the state), or the LSTA program in

general, they will be discussed with the LSTA Advisory Council and State Library Board. Changes will then be implemented following approval by IMLS.

Both the state and federal budgets will be monitored throughout the lifetime of the Plan. If either budget is negatively impacted, the Plan will be reviewed to determine if and the extent to which any modifications are required.

The Five-Year Evaluation to be conducted in 2026 will be used to provide an overall assessment as to whether the goals, priorities, and activities in the Plan were achieved. Actual methodologies will be determined by the evaluator chosen.

Core Principles:

The following matrix is an example to be applied selectively on appropriate projects in an effort to ensure that every project and activity undertaken is consistent with Ohio’s LSTA philosophy:

Project Title:	
Desired Outcome(s):	
Statistical Measure(s) to be collected:	
How will the project promote and ensure equitable outcomes?	
How will the project ensure that diverse/marginalized/underrepresented populations are able to participate?	
Has an effort been made to involve/engage strategic partners in the initiative?	
What efforts have been made to ensure accountability and the highest return on the investment of funds?	

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The *Ohio 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 Ohio’s LSTA evaluation for 2018 - 2022, and from other stakeholders. This includes both direct input gathered through personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, group meetings, and extensive contact between the facilitators of the Plan and the State Librarian, the Library Development unit head, and the LSTA Coordinator, as well as less direct feedback gleaned from an in-depth review of past State Program Reports (SPR) and relevant 2019 Public Libraries Survey (PLS) data.

On December 6, 2021, the State Library of Ohio selected a vendor to assist with both the evaluation of the implementation of Ohio's 2018 - 2022 Five-Year LSTA Plan and with the development of the 2023 - 2027 LSTA Plan. QualityMetrics LLC of Silver Spring, Maryland submitted a proposal in response to the RFP. QualityMetrics was subsequently awarded a contract in December of 2021 and started work on the evaluation the same month.

Because they were engaged to conduct both the evaluation and facilitation of the plan, QualityMetrics was able to efficiently integrate both retrospective and prospective elements into the evaluation process. The assessment of the State Library's efforts in carrying out the 2018 - 2022 Plan was conducted by QualityMetrics Chief Executive Officer Dr. Martha Kyrillidou assisted by associate researchers Thomas Hickerson and William Wilson. Dr. Kyrillidou, Mr. Hickerson and Mr. Wilson also assisted in the development of the 2023 - 2027 five-year plan.

In short, ***Ohio'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 span of the last six months.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

The State Library of Ohio will make the 2023 – 2027 LSTA Plan available to all State Library staff and will review specific portions of the Plan in detail with the individuals with responsibilities related to carrying out the projects and activities described in the document. The new Plan will be presented to the State Library Board and the LSTA Advisory Council, as well as with the library community. The final version will be mounted on the State Library of Ohio's website and notification will be made to all stakeholder groups through a variety of communication channels.

Ongoing communication will be maintained with LSTA stakeholders through the following methods:

- Posting highlights of the LSTA State Program Report on the State Library website.
- Posting information on funded LSTA Projects on the State Library website.
- Requiring all LSTA competitive grants to include an appendix detailing how the project will be publicized to the local community.
- Encouraging recipients to present programs on their LSTA Projects at regional, state, or national conferences.

MONITORING

The implementation of Ohio's ***Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Five-Year Plan (2023-2027)*** will be monitored on a continuous basis. Appropriate State Library 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. An important component of this tracking will be the monitoring of sub-grant projects funded with LSTA dollars. Sub-grantees will be required to submit semi-annual status reports

and final reports on the status and results of each project. This will be supplemented with a combination of on-site monitoring visits, phone calls, emails, and other virtual contact.

The monitoring process for sub-grantees consists of the following:

- Quarterly narrative and financial reports which are reviewed by LSTA staff.
- All full grant sub-grantees receive a site visit by the liaison consultant. This site visit typically takes place at the end of the second quarter. A percentage of discretionary grants receive a site visit.
- Library Development Consultants and other State Library staff talk with libraries about current or past LSTA grants when conducting a site visit for another purpose.
- All sub-grantees are required to submit complete fiscal back-up documentation for the project. Each quarter they must submit copies of all purchase orders, invoices, and canceled checks.
- A termination and close-out financial report is required upon completion of the grant term.
- A final narrative report providing output and outcome evaluation details, available at that time, is required upon completion of the grant term.
- Communication between sub-grantees and the LSTA office is encouraged to alleviate possible issues before they become problems. The need for an amount of communication varies from sub-grantee to sub-grantee.

All projects, including sub-grant projects, as well as those directly administered by SLO, 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 SLO'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 - Sub-recipient and Contractor Determination
- 2 CFR 200.331 - Requirements for Pass-Through Entities
- 2 CFR 200.332 - Fixed Amount Sub-awards

APPENDIX A: Ohio Demographic Review

Most of the data used in this report is from the U.S. Census; other sources are cited where used. The census data used for the overview section includes data from the decennial census, both the 2020 redistricting data and the 2010 decennial data. Any data cited from 2020, both in the overview and what makes up the majority of the data in the rest of this report, is from the 2020 5-year (2016-2020) American Community Survey (ACS), which includes a greater number of topics than that found in decennial census data. 2015 comparisons for this data are from the 2011-2015 ACS. The highly rural nature of many Ohio counties means that the 5-year ACS estimates had to be used, rather than the 1-year estimates (which are [only available for areas with populations over 65,000](#)).

Population Distribution

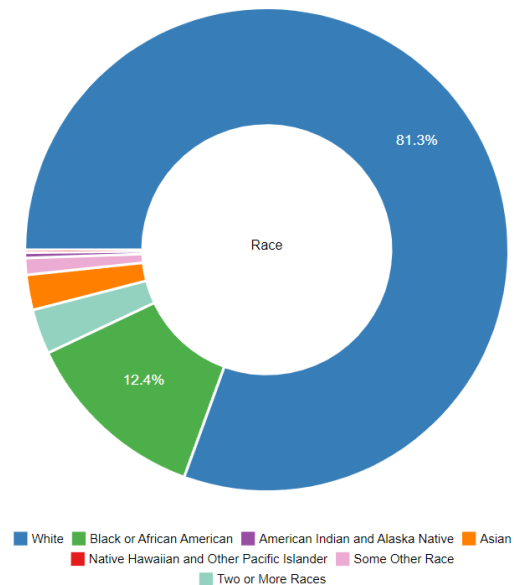
Ohio sits in the US Midwest, linking the country's Northeast to the Midwest. The state has one of the most central locations in the country with the 10th largest highway network.

Ohio has a total land area of 44,812 square miles, which ranks it as 35th, but it has a population of 11,799,448 which ranks 7th among states, making it the 10th most densely populated. It has five significant urban centers. Columbus is the largest, followed by Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Akron.³ There is a significant difference in growth rates among the cities. The remainder of the state is largely rural in nature and lightly populated.

The population total is highly stable. According to a Weldon Cooper for Public Services study at the University of Virginia, the population growth rate between 2020 and 2040 will average 0.4% annually, 41st among states.⁴ At this rate Ohio will be the 9th most populous in 2040. Slow growth rates can lead to weaker economic growth and fewer economic opportunities.

Age and Ethnic Composition

In 2020, the median age was 39.5, slightly higher than the national average. 17% of the population was 65 years and older. There is, however, a sizable population 18 years and younger, 22.2%, comparable to the national average.



³ There are eight metro systems in Ohio: Columbus, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Youngstown-Mahoning County, and Akron-Summit County.

⁴ Source: *The Center Square: Ohio* "How Ohio's Population Will Change in the Next 20 Years" [How Ohio's Population Will Change in the Next 20 Years | Ohio | thecentersquare.com](#)

The racial and ethnicity composition of Ohio is largely white, 81.30%. The African American population is substantial, 12.41%, 17th highest nationally. This population is centered in the principal urban areas. The Hispanic population is among the lowest in the country, is primarily Mexican Americans, and lives largely in Columbus and Toledo.

4.6% of the state population is foreign born. Ancestrally, the largest component is of German descent, followed by Irish, English, Slavic, and Italian.⁵ 92.8% of Ohioans only speak English, substantially higher than the national average.

Employment

The employment rate is 59.7%, comparable to the national average. The unemployment rate is 5.3%. The median household income is \$58,116, somewhat lower than the national average.

The state has a strong manufacturing base and substantial employment in educational services, health care, and social assistance. Specific employment by sector is as follows:

Civilian employed population aged 16 and over	
Management, business, science and arts occupations	37.6%
Service occupations	16.9%
Sales and office occupations	21.1%
Natural resources, construction and maintenance occupations	7.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	16.9%

Educational Attainment

School enrollment, kindergarten to the 12th grade, slightly exceeds the national average. In educational attainment, 28.3% have received bachelor's degrees or higher, somewhat lower than the national average.

Education attained	
Less than 9 th grade	2.78%
9 th to 12 th grade	6.85%
High school graduate	33.04%
Some college	20.40%
Associates degree	8.67%
Bachelor's degree	17.57%
Graduate degree	10.70%

⁵ Data and chart sourced from World Population Review [Ohio Population 2022 \(Demographics, Maps, Graphs\)](https://worldpopulationreview.com) (worldpopulationreview.com)

Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment

Less Than 9th Grade	27.22%
High School	13.27%
Some College	10.48%
Bachelors or Greater	3.78%

Poverty

The poverty rate is 13.6% and is highest for those under 18 years. The rate is nearly 3 times higher for African Americans than for whites.⁶ Poverty levels correlate significantly with educational attainment. 6.2% of the population is without health insurance.

Households

The average family size is 3 persons while the average household size is 2 persons. Household type percentages: Married 45.8%, Male 4.9%, Female 12.5%, Non-Family 36.8%

Internet Access

15.1% of the population are without internet subscription, slightly higher than the national average. This lack makes evident the gap in access to information and governmental services suffered by a significant portion of the population.

People With Disabilities

The state has a slightly higher disability rate than the national average. Among disabilities, highest rates are for ambulatory difficulties, 7.5%, and independent living difficulties, 6.2%. Following those are cognitive difficulties, 5.8%, hearing difficulties, 3.8%, self-care difficulties, 2.7%, and vision difficulties, 2.4%.

Homelessness

In 2020, Ohio had an estimated 10,655 homeless on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Of that total, 906 were family households, 730 were Veterans, 736 were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and 753 were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Public school data reported to the U.S. Department of Education during the 2018-2019 school year shows that an estimated 32,780 public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, 359 students were unsheltered, 4,800 were in shelters, 1,731 were in hotels/motels, and 25,890 were doubled up.⁷

⁶ Statistics and chart sourced from World Population Review [Ohio Population 2022 \(Demographics, Maps, Graphs\) \(worldpopulationreview.com\)](https://worldpopulationreview.com)

⁷ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [Homeless in Ohio Statistics 2019. Homeless Estimation by State | US Interagency Council on Homelessness \(usich.gov\)](https://www.usich.gov)

Below are select tables with more detailed information of interest.

AGE	% Total 2010	% Total 2015	% Total 2020
Under 5 years	6.3	6	5.9
5 to 9 years	6.6	6.4	6
10 to 14 years	6.8	6.5	6.4
15 to 19 years	7.3	6.8	6.5
20 to 24 years	6.5	6.8	6.5
25 to 29 years	6.4	6.4	6.8
30 to 34 years	5.9	6.2	6.4
35 to 39 years	6.5	5.9	6.1
40 to 44 years	6.9	6.4	5.8
45 to 49 years	7.6	6.7	6.2
50 to 54 years	7.5	7.4	6.5
55 to 59 years	6.6	7.2	7.1
60 to 64 years	5.3	6.3	6.7
65 to 69 years	3.9	4.8	5.7
70 to 74 years	3.1	3.5	4.2
75 to 79 years	2.7	2.6	3
80 to 84 years	2.1	2	2
85 years and over	1.9	2.1	2.2

Population 25 years and over	Ohio		United States	
TOTAL POPULATION	8,014,966	%	222,836,834	%
Less than 9th grade	217,670	2.7%	10,923,030	4.9%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	521,100	6.5%	14,639,650	6.6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	2,629,870	32.8%	59,421,419	26.7%
Some college, no degree	1,628,291	20.3%	45,242,162	20.3%
Associate's degree	702,496	8.8%	19,254,254	8.6%
Bachelor's degree	1,438,177	17.9%	45,034,610	20.2%
Graduate or professional degree	877,362	10.9%	28,321,709	12.7%
High school graduate or higher	7,276,196	90.8%	197,274,154	88.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,315,539	28.9%	73,356,319	32.9%

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
Population (ACS 2016-2020)	11,675,275	326,569,308
SEX AND AGE		
Male	49.0%	49.2%
Female	51.0%	50.8%
Under 5 years	5.9%	6.0%
5 to 17 years	16.3%	16.4%
18 to 24 years	9.1%	9.3%
25 to 44 years	25.1%	26.6%
45 to 54 years	12.7%	12.7%
55 to 64 years	13.8%	12.9%
65 to 74 years	9.9%	9.4%
75 to 84 years	4.9%	4.7%
85 years and over	2.2%	2.0%
Median age (years)	39.5%	38.2
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN		
One race	96.4%	94.8%
White	80.5%	70.4%
Black or African American	12.4%	12.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.8%
Asian	2.3%	5.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race	1.1%	5.1%
Two or more races	3.6%	5.2%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	3.9%	18.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	78.3%	60.1%
HOUSEHOLD TYPE		
In married-couple family	56.6%	58.6%
In other households	40.7%	38.9%
Average household size	2.41%	2.6
Average family size	3.02%	3.21
MARITAL STATUS		
Population 15 years and over	9,535,282	265,832,167
Never married	32.6%	33.5%

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
Now married, except separated	47.5%	48.1%
Divorced or separated	13.6%	12.7%
Widowed	6.3%	5.7%
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	2,771,293	80,497,960
Nursery school, preschool	6.1%	6.1%
Elementary school (grades K-8)	46.2%	45.4%
High school (grades 9-12)	21.6%	21.0%
College or graduate school	26.1%	27.6%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 years and over	8,014,966	222,836,834
Less than high school graduate	9.2%	11.5%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	32.8%	26.7%
Some college or associate's degree	29.1%	28.9%
Bachelor's degree	17.9%	20.2%
Graduate or professional degree	10.9%	12.7%
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH		
Population 5 years and over	10,982,292	306,919,116
English only	92.8%	78.5%
Language other than English	7.2%	21.5%
Speak English less than "very well"	2.5%	8.2%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Population 16 years and over	9,385,593	261,649,873
In labor force	63.2%	63.4%
Civilian labor force	63.0%	63.0%
Employed	59.7%	59.6%
Unemployed	3.3%	3.4%
Percent of civilian labor force	5.3%	5.4%
Armed Forces	0.1%	0.4%
Not in labor force	36.8%	36.6%
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	5,603,630	155,888,980
CLASS OF WORKER		
Private wage and salary workers	82.8%	79.9%

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
Government workers	12.2%	13.9%
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	4.8%	5.9%
Unpaid family workers	0.2%	0.2%
OCCUPATION		
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	37.6%	39.5%
Service occupations	16.9%	17.4%
Sales and office occupations	21.1%	21.3%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	7.4%	8.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	16.9%	13.1%
INDUSTRY		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.0%	1.7%
Construction	5.6%	6.7%
Manufacturing	15.1%	10.0%
Wholesale trade	2.6%	2.5%
Retail trade	11.3%	11.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.4%	5.5%
Information	1.5%	2.0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.5%	6.6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	9.8%	11.7%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24.2%	23.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	8.9%	9.4%
Other services (except public administration)	4.4%	4.8%
Public administration	3.9%	4.7%
EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2019 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) FOR FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS		
Population 16 years and over with earnings	3,960,541	112,255,754
\$1 to \$9,999 or loss	1.5%	1.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.5%	2.7%

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.2%	10.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	16.0%	15.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	21.6%	19.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	24.3%	22.4%
\$75,000 or more	23.9%	28.1%
Median earnings (dollars) for full-time, year-round workers:		
Male	53,293	54,323
Female	41,886	44,220
INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2019 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)		
Households	4,717,226	122,354,219
With earnings	75.8%	77.7%
Mean earnings (dollars)	80,561	93,265
With Social Security income	32.0%	31.4%
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	19,252	20,126
With Supplemental Security Income	5.9%	5.2%
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	10,185	10,115
With cash public assistance income	2.8%	2.4%
Mean cash public assistance income (dollars)	3,062	3,271
With retirement income	23.7%	21.1%
Mean retirement income (dollars)	26,316	28,376
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	12.6%	11.4%
Median Household income (dollars)	58,116	64,994
Average number of workers per household	1.15%	1.24%
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
Population for whom poverty status is determined	11,350,378	318,564,128
Below 100 percent of the poverty level	13.6%	12.8%
100 to 199 percent of the poverty level	16.9%	16.9%
At or above 200 percent of the poverty level	69.5%	70.2%
POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED		
All families	9.6%	9.1%
With related children of the householder under 18 years	16.1%	14.3%

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	17.1%	13.5%
Married-couple family	3.8%	4.6%
With related children of the householder under 18 years	5.2%	6.2%
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	3.9%	4.8%
Female householder, no spouse present, family	29.2%	25.1%
With related children of the householder under 18 years	39.3%	34.4%
With related children of the householder under 5 years only	46.5%	38.8%
Occupied housing units	4,717,226	122,354,219
HOUSING TENURE		
Owner-occupied housing units	66.3%	64.4%
Renter-occupied housing units	33.7%	35.6%
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.52%	2.69%
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.20%	2.45%
ROOMS		
1 room	1.2%	2.1%
2 or 3 rooms	8.0%	11.1%
4 or 5 rooms	30.9%	34.1%
6 or 7 rooms	34.5%	30.8%
8 or more rooms	25.4%	22.0%
Median number of rooms	6.0%	5.7%
1.01 or more occupants per room	1.4%	3.3%
VEHICLES AVAILABLE		
None	7.8%	8.5%
1 or more	92.2%	91.5%
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS		
No telephone service available	1.6%	1.6%
Limited English Speaking Households	1.4%	4.3%
Owner-occupied housing units	3,128,172	78,801,376
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		

Label (Grouping)	Ohio Total	United States Total
Less than 30 percent	82.6%	78.1%
30 percent or more	17.4%	21.9%
Renter-occupied housing units	1,589,054	43,552,843
GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
Less than 30 percent	59.1%	54.3%
30 percent or more	40.9%	45.7%

APPENDIX B: Crosswalk - Objectives & Projects

OHIO GOAL 1 Learning: Educating Ohioans for Success

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 1.1 Improve users' formal education	Project 1.1.1 Enhance pre-K to K-12 education initiatives	Project 1.1.2 Support VR, audiovisual, makerspace and related technologies	Project 1.1.3 Summer reading	Objective 1.2 Improve users' general knowledge and skills	Project 1.2.1 Digital literacy training Ohio libraries	Project 1.2.2 Digital literacy training related technologies	Objective 1.3 Subgrants on improving formal and informal educational knowledge and skills											
Lifelong Learning	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES											
Improve users' formal education	YES	YES	YES	YES					YES										
Improve users' general knowledge and skills					YES	YES	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																			
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																			

OHIO Goal 2 Building Community Capacity and Engagement

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 2.1 Sustain Collaborative Access to Information Services	Project 2.1.1 Serving Every Ohioan	Project 2.1.2 Ohio Digital Library (SEO) Center	Project 2.1.3 Statewide Information network providers	Project 2.1.4 Assist regional consortia supporting common technology platforms to access statewide networks and expand interlibrary lending	Objective 2.2 Discover and Preserve Cultural Heritage	Project 2.2.1 Identify, preserve, and expand use of historic records both digitized and born-digital	Project 2.2.2 Manage and expand use of state government organization partnerships	Project 2.2.3 Ohio Memory and cultural heritage for Ohio	Project 2.2.4 Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hub
Lifelong Learning										
Improve users' formal education										
Improve users' general knowledge and skills										
Information Access	YES		YES	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	
Improve users' ability to discover information resources	YES		YES	YES		YES		YES	YES	
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources					YES		YES			
Institutional Capacity	YES	YES			YES					
Improve the library workforce										
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure										
Improve library operations	YES	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						YES	YES			
Improve users' ability to participate in their community						YES	YES			
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern										

OHIO Goal 2 Building Community Capacity and Engagement

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 2.3 Support Libraries as Community Anchor Institutions	Project 2.3.1 Expand the role of libraries in addressing additional social needs of their communities	Project 2.3.2 Serve as social centers for residents ranging in age from pre-kindergarten to older adults	Project 2.3.3 Promote professional and economic development through job training and employment services and assist with tax preparation	Project 2.3.4 Provide immigration and citizenship services in areas of demographic change	Project 2.3.5 Train staff to address mental health needs of patrons and colleagues, supporting people experiencing homelessness and providing improved understanding and crisis handling tips	Objective 2.4 Foster Equitable Access for All	Project 2.4.1 Manage implementation of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Disabled	Project 2.4.2 Promote Universal Design standards enabling functional and programmatic access for the physically disabled	Project 2.4.3 Expand physical access to collections through specialized service locations in underserved areas and expand courier services for the elderly	Project 2.4.4 Expand and enable broader use of the internet	Objective 2.5 Subgrants on capacity and engagement										
Lifelong Learning																						
Improve users' formal education																						
Improve users' general knowledge and skills																						
Information Access							YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES										
Improve users' ability to discover information resources							YES															
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources							YES	YES	YES	YES												
Institutional Capacity																						
Improve the library workforce																						
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure																						
Improve library operations																						
Economic & Employment Development	YES			YES																		YES
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support	YES			YES																		YES
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources																						YES
Human Resources	YES					YES																YES
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances	YES					YES																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	YES	YES	YES		YES																	YES
Improve users' ability to participate in their community	YES	YES	YES		YES																	YES
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern																						YES

OHIO GOAL 3 Strengthening Libraries

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 3.1 Improve the Library Workforce Project 3.1.1 Develop future leaders for all types of libraries, helping library staff become leaders in the communities they serve and encouraging collaboration Project 3.1.2 Support a diversity of staff education and training, offer learning opportunities that are high quality, easy-to-access, and cost-effective Objective 3.2 Improve the Library's Physical and Technological Infrastructure Project 3.2.1 Provide grants to the Regional Library Systems to support continuing education and technology and equipment Project 3.2.2 Assist libraries in utilizing their facilities in a manner that will address the goals of their strategic plans and meet community needs Objective 3.3 Improve Library Operations Project 3.3.1 Provide consultants to assist in strategic planning, including developing community surveys, compiling data, and conducting focus groups Project 3.3.2 Public Library Statistics providing statewide annual census for all 251 library systems and ensuring consistent information reporting Objective 3.4 Other Subgrants on strengthening libraries									
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	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Improve the library workforce	YES	YES	YES							YES
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure				YES	YES	YES				YES
Improve library operations							YES	YES	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										

Objectives Only Tables

OHIO GOAL 1 Learning: Educating Ohioans for Success

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 1.1 Improve users' formal education	Objective 1.2 Improve users' general knowledge and skills	Objective 1.3 Subgrants on improving formal and informal educational knowledge and skills
Lifelong Learning	YES	YES	YES
Improve users' formal education	YES		YES
Improve users' general knowledge and skills		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			
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			

OHIO Goal 2 Building Community Capacity and Engagement

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 2.1 Sustain Collaborative Access to Information Services	Objective 2.2 Discover and Preserve Cultural Heritage	Objective 2.3 Support Libraries as Community Anchor Institutions	Objective 2.4 Foster Equitable Access to Community Engagement						
Lifelong Learning				YES						
Improve users' formal education										
Improve users' general knowledge and skills				YES						
Information Access	YES	YES		YES	YES					
Improve users' ability to discover information resources	YES	YES		YES	YES					
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources	YES	YES		YES	YES					
Institutional Capacity										
Improve the library workforce										
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure										
Improve library operations										
Economic & Employment Development			YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support			YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources					YES					
Human Resources			YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances			YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness			YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills					YES					
Civic Engagement		YES	YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to participate in their community		YES	YES		YES					
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern					YES					

OHIO GOAL 3 Strengthening Libraries

Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intents

	Objective 3.1 Improve the Library Workforce	Objective 3.2 Improve the Library's Physical and Technology Infrastructure	Objective 3.3 Improve Library Operations	Objective 3.4 Other Subgrants on strengthening libraries															
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																		
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																			

APPENDIX C: Libraries in Ohio

Public Libraries: Public libraries are those libraries established under Ohio Revised Code Sections 3375.06, 3375.10, 3375.12, 3375.15, 3375.22, 3375.30, or 1713.28 to serve the residents of a designated service area. There are 251 public library systems under Ohio law, which fall into one of six types of public library. Types of libraries include 19 Association, 3 County, 57 County District, 19 Municipal, 149 School District, and 4 Township libraries. Local boards of trustees oversee all public libraries. All 251 public library systems are eligible to apply for LSTA funds.

Academic Libraries: According to the Department of Higher Education there are 14 public universities, 24 satellite campuses, 23 community and technical colleges, and 85 private colleges and universities offering higher education opportunities to Ohioans. Governance patterns within colleges and universities vary with ultimate authority usually residing with a board of trustees or directors. Statewide, higher education matters are coordinated by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. All college and university libraries are eligible to apply for LSTA funds.

School Libraries: There are 610 public school districts in Ohio. School library media centers are funded through the school district's budget which is currently supported by the local property tax and state foundations funds and can be supplemented through the Education and Consolidation Act of 1988. Additionally, there are approximately 1,200 private, chartered, and community schools⁸ located in the state. All public-school districts, joint vocational schools, community schools, and private schools with a library on-site are eligible to apply for LSTA funds, as are the 51 Educational Service Centers, the 18 Instructional Technology Centers, and the 8 Ohio Educational Technology Agencies.

Special Libraries: There are approximately 450 special libraries in the state. Three chapters of the Special Library Association represent special libraries, including medical, business, corporate, law, and state agency libraries. Those special libraries that meet the LSTA eligibility requirements may apply for LSTA funds.

Institution Libraries: The 27 institutions operated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and the 3 institutions under the Ohio Department of Youth Services are eligible for LSTA funds if they have a staffed library.

Statewide Library Networks

The State Library works closely with four statewide information network providers that are eligible to receive LSTA funds. They are:

OPLIN: The Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), founded in

⁸ Numbers were pulled from NCES. Private schools are 2020-21 data; charter is 2021-22.

1995, is currently a line item in the State Library's budget but funded through the Public Library Fund. OPLIN provides broadband Internet connections and related information services to Ohio public libraries. The network links 251 public library systems in Ohio to the state's telecommunications backbone. Though the eventual consumers of their services are often members of the general public, their actual *customers* are in fact limited to the public library systems of Ohio.

OhioLINK: Serving more than 600,000 students, faculty, and staff, the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) is a networked consortium of 117 public and private universities and colleges throughout the state. In addition to providing access to the collective catalogs of member institutions and delivery of those materials, OhioLINK provides, among other services, access to over 100 databases, an Electronic Journal Center, and an Electronic Book Center.

INFOhio is an Ohio Management Council of the Education Computer Network (MCOECN) service providing cost-effective library automation, electronic resources, networked media booking, and a union catalog for Ohio K-12 schools. The vendor for the library automation component is SirsiDynix. Use of the software began in 1994. Today, more than 2,400 Ohio Schools in 480 districts serving 1.1 million students utilize the automation system, and 1,650 school libraries were automated using LSTA funds. INFOhio also assists library districts in aligning Core Competencies and Standards to educational resources.

OhioNet was formed in 1977 around the novel idea that libraries of all types and sizes share one important similarity: they all want to strengthen their communities and give their patrons their very best. OhioNet is the only statewide membership organization that brings libraries of every type and size together in order to build stronger communities.

Chartered Regional Library Systems: There are four Chartered Regional Library Systems (RLS) in Ohio. Upon becoming chartered, the system is governed by a Board of Trustees whose powers are analogous to those of a public library board. The laws governing RLS are outlined in Ohio Revised Code 3375. Chartered Regional Library Systems are funded by state funds as a line item in the State Library's budget and through local funds contributed by participating RLS members. The RLS provide many member-determined services including continuing education (especially technology) and technical support. The Chartered RLS are eligible to apply for LSTA funds.

Professional Associations: Ohio has many professional associations such as the Ohio Library Council (public libraries), Academic Library Association of Ohio, Ohio

Educational Library Media Association, Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL), Ohio Health Sciences Library Association (OHSLA), CO-ASIS&T, and three chapters of the American Association for Information Science (special libraries). All the associations are eligible to apply for LSTA funds.