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LSTA Funding 2011

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Unlike the State of Ohio, the federal government operates on a one year budget cycle, meaning that each year a budget must be passed to sustain federal programs like the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Because Congress never passed a full FY2011 appropriations package last year or in this new Congress, periodic votes arise to extend the Continuing Resolution or "C.R." In normal years the budget would be passed in October as the new fiscal year begins. These are not normal times and each time the C.R. comes up for renewal there is the potential of cuts being made to the any number of programs including LSTA. Recent attempts to cut funding during the last vote on the C.R. in February were successfully turned back by grassroots efforts of library supporters. LSTA is currently funded at the FY 2010 level.

As Congress continues work on the federal budget in the days and weeks ahead, it's important to keep their offices informed of the many projects LSTA money helps to fund in Ohio. Those include:

- [Competitive grants to libraries](#) are awarded to libraries for projects demonstrating technological innovation; providing services to targeted populations; providing services to youth; training in technological literacy for the public; and automating libraries.
- [KnowItNow24x7](#), a service providing all Ohioans online access to a librarian 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- [Ohio Web Library](#), providing online databases which contain essential quality digital resources for students (kindergarten through higher education), teachers, professors and all Ohioans.
- [Ohio Libraries Share: MORE \(OLS: MORE\)](#) consists of nearly 100 participating libraries containing nearly 17 million volumes and 2.5 million patrons. Patrons from any participating library can request an item from another participating library and pick it up at the patron's home library.
- [Ohio eBook Project](#), a consortium of Ohio public libraries providing downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, music and video to library customers, providing a larger collection to customers and a considerable savings for individual libraries.
- [Ohio Ready to Read](#), a program assisting public libraries in providing early literacy services to ensure that every Ohio child starts kindergarten ready to learn and ready to read.
- [Choose to Read Ohio](#), a program which spotlights Ohio authors and encourages Ohioans of all age groups to read and enjoy books together.
- [Summer Reading Program](#), a statewide theme coordinated by the State Library and used by 218 public libraries. Approximately 387,000 youth, teens, and adults participated in the collaborative summer reading program in 2010.
- [Automation/Consortium](#), a grant program to assist libraries wishing to upgrade their circulation system and join a consortium to increase their customers' access to materials and realize cost savings by sharing resources.
- [Talking Books](#), a program encompassing more than 850,000 annual circulations for the blind and other Ohioans including veterans whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in Braille.