

**State Library
Budget No. 250
House Bill Nos. 1013 and 1395**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 legislative appropriation	26.75	\$5,831,721	\$4,531,143	\$10,362,864
2019-21 legislative appropriation	<u>27.75</u>	<u>5,781,419</u>	<u>2,374,361</u>	<u>8,155,780</u>
2021-23 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2019-21 appropriation	(1.00)	\$50,302	\$2,156,782	\$2,207,084

Item Description

State aid to public libraries - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1,737,582 from the general fund for aid to public libraries, the same as the 2019-21 biennium.

Library Vision project - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$237,500 from the general fund for grants relating to the Library Vision project for the 2021-23 biennium.

Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding - The Legislative Assembly, in House Bill No. 1395, appropriated a total of \$2,166,726 of federal COVID-19 funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the federal American Rescue Plan Act for the 2021-23 biennium to the State Library for digital inclusion, to assist libraries in responding to the pandemic, and to support library services.

Status/Result

North Dakota Century Code Section 54-24.2-02 requires state aid grants to eligible public libraries be determined based on a formula that includes \$1 per capita for city libraries and \$1 per capita and \$5 per square mile for county libraries. Libraries must continue their maintenance of effort. The maintenance of effort requirement provides that a public library is not eligible to receive any state aid to libraries during a fiscal year if the governing body has diminished the appropriation for public library services below the average of the 3 preceding fiscal years. Each biennium no more than one-half of the legislative appropriation may be expended during the 1st year of the biennium. During fiscal year 2021, the 2nd year of the 2019-21 biennium, funding available totaled \$868,791. Based on the state aid formula, libraries were eligible to receive \$904,423, resulting in funding of 96 percent of the formula amount for which public libraries were eligible. Library state aid grant funding available during the 2021-23 biennium totals \$1,737,582; therefore, one-half of the appropriation, allocated to the 1st year of the biennium, will total \$868,791. Library grant requests are due March 31 for fiscal year 2022 state aid grants.

The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council reviewed grant requests in November 2021 and awarded 37 grants in three programs totaling \$143,893. Grants were awarded for local history (11 grants totaling \$82,503), collection development (22 grants totaling \$39,710), and marketing (4 grants totaling \$21,680). Another round of competitive grants will be made available in October 2022 for the remaining \$93,607.

The State Library is currently completing one-time retrospective conversions of library collections. The State Library identified 25 libraries eligible for conversion and 3 libraries accepted the opportunity. The estimated total cost of the conversions is \$100,000. In addition, the State Library will pay the access fee for online resources for all libraries in the state for fiscal year 2023, totaling \$272,744. The State Library is still exploring how the remaining funding will be utilized.