

Montana State Library

COVID-Related Funding and Expenditures

June 2022 Updates

MSL COVID Funding Status as of Q3 FY2022

Funding Source	Deadline	Budget	E-Content	Hotspots	Newsline	Total	Remaining
CARES 1: IMLS	09/30/21	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	-	\$91,004	\$0
ARPA-ECONTENT	12/31/22	\$1,000,000	\$449,972	-	-	\$449,972	\$550,028
ARPA-HOT SPOT	12/31/22	\$1,235,444	-	\$383,668	-	\$383,668	\$851,776
ARPA-NEWSLINE	06/30/22	\$120,000	-	-	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total		\$2,446,448	\$449,972	\$474,671	\$60,000	\$984,643	\$1,461,805

E-Content

Digital Reading & Educational Materials

- Citizens from Ekalaka to Eureka used MontanLibrary2Go to borrow educational resources at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. When Montanans stayed home to slow the spread they requested more e-materials than ever before, a trend that prevails two years later. Montanans borrowed a record setting 105,946 e-books and audiobooks in May 2022, an increase of 31% from February 2020, the month before COVID-19 struck Montana. With ease of access in rural places, ebooks are a primary reading format for Montanans. Demand will continue to grow as more readers leverage this important resource.
- In December 2021, Montana State Library added digital learning resources available through the Overdrive app. Great Courses and Universal Class both offer lifelong learning opportunities to fit a variety of interests and professional goals.
 - Through Universal Class, students attended 3,856 lessons, watched 3,024 instructional videos, and submitted 2,070 assignments. The top ten courses include:
 1. Accounting & Bookkeeping
 2. Watercolor Painting
 3. Digital Photography
 4. Excel 2021
 5. How to Draw
 6. Community Development
 7. Writing Basics: Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, Writing Structures
 8. Dog Training
 9. Anti-Aging Techniques
 10. Microsoft Word 2021

Montana Memory Project

- The Montana Memory Project curated eight new exhibits this year including:
 - Bicycles for the Army: The 25th Infantry in Montana
 - Evelyn Cameron
 - Henry Meloy
 - Bud Moore

- Construction of the Montana State Capitol Building
- Glacier National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention
- Through ARPA funds, Bear Paw Development and Candy Zion will continue an oral history project that examines the personal experiences, livelihoods, ancestry, and history of Metis in Montana. This project expands upon an earlier oral history focusing on the Central Montana Metis. In the latest project, many of the interviewees are descendants of the people that formed the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Montana. Both projects tell the story of the Metis in their own words.
- A complete list of ARPA funded MMP projects is as follows:

Montana History Foundation ARPA Funded Projects	Project	City	County	Amount
Bear Paw Development Corp.	The Metis of the Hi-Line Oral History Project (Working Title)	Havre	Hill	\$8,400
Helena Civic Television	Last Best Constitution - Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention & Constitution: A Video History Retrospective.	Helena	Lewis & Clark	\$10,000
The Cascade County Historical Society/ DBA: The History Museum	Cascade County Historical Society Oral History Program	Great Falls	Cascade	\$8,730
Archie Bray Foundation	The Brickyard Podcast Network launches a new podcast, Beyond the Brickyard, dedicated to the history of the historic Bray 71 years in and going forward.	Helena	Lewis & Clark	\$10,000
Montana Association of State Grazing Districts	History of Montana's State Grazing Districts	Helena	Lewis & Clark	\$10,000
Missoula Legion Hellgate Post No. 27 Baseball Program	Missoula Mavericks oral history project	Missoula	Missoula	\$2,000
Montana Museum of Art and Culture	Pattee Canyon Ladies Salon Oral History Project	Missoula	Missoula	\$6,000
O'Fallon Historical Museum	Humans of Fallon County Oral History Project	Baker	Fallon	\$3,347

Montana State Library ARPA Funded Projects	Project	City	County	Amount
Winifred Museum	Winifred Oral Histories 2021	Winifred	Fergus	\$5,000
Conrad Public Library	Brady Area Local Histories	Brady	Pondera	\$300
Cascade County Historical Society, DBA: The History Museum	Great Falls Fire Department Collection	Great Falls	Cascade	\$4,000
Montana State University Billings Library	MSUB City College General Catalogs	Billings	Yellowstone	\$1,800
Yellowstone National Park Heritage and Research Center	Yellowstone National Park Oral Histories (existing) / Yellowstone National Park Films (new)	Gardiner	Park	\$5,000

Billings Public Library	Billings Public Library Art and Historical Document Collection	Billings	Yellowstone	\$1,500
Thompson-Hickman Madison County Library (Dick Pace Archives)	Virginia City Historic Architecture Inventory	Virginia City	Madison	\$11,200

Broadband

Hotspot Program

- Schools are an important partner in providing internet access to rural Montana communities via the State Library’s hotspot program. 14,243 residents in Broadwater, Liberty, Golden Valley, Petroleum, and Musselshell counties have access to library hotspots exclusively through public schools or school-community partnerships.
 - Over one quarter of the residents in Liberty County do not have Internet access at home. Community members can borrow hotspots from Chester-Joplin-Inverness Public School.
 - 26% of households in Golden Valley County are not connected to the web. Another 15% exclusively rely on a cellular data plan. Lavina School lends hotspots to students and the public to help bridge the gap.
- [Survey responses](#) from hotspot users continue to indicate the importance of this program. Most hotspot borrowers use the devices for multiple purposes:
 - 50% research a topic of interest.
 - 38% access online health or telehealth services.
 - 34% complete homework.
 - 26% searched for jobs or worked remotely.

Libraries’ Internal Broadband Capacity

- Since March 2022, Communication Resources, LLC completed cabling at 11 of 28 locations. Three additional libraries have work scheduled with the remaining 14 still in progress.
 - The Lincoln County Library Eureka branch withdrew from the project because their Internet service provider (ISP) agreed to cover the necessary upgrades. Funds originally budgeted for Eureka will be redistributed to all participating locations to extend licensing for ten years and to complete cabling clean-up.
 - The Joliet Public Library does not need to install cabling but will seek new network equipment.
- Equipment was installed at the Carnegie Public Library in Big Timber, making them the first location to complete both cabling and equipment upgrades. Equipment installation is in process or scheduled at four additional locations.

Newsline

- Access to NFB-Newsline through Montana State Library began in September 2021. Since that time, 399 subscribers have used the resource, including 19 new users. Six members withdrew their accounts for a net gain of 13 subscriptions.
- On average, Newsline content was accessed 8,562 time per month, or 21 times per subscriber. Montana Newspapers are the most popular content type, accounting for 83% of uses.