

COVID-Related Funding & Expenditures

Montana State Library
September 2022 Updates

MSL COVID Funding Status

Funding Status as of Q4 FY 22

Funding Source	Deadline	Budget	E-Content	Hot Spots	Newsline	Total	Total Remaining
CARES 1: IMLS	09/30/21	\$91,004		\$91,004		\$91,004	\$0
ARPA-ECONTENT	12/31/22	\$1,000,000	\$658,437			\$658,437	\$341,563
ARPA-HOTSPOT	12/31/22	\$1,235,444		\$498,735		\$498,735	\$736,709
ARPA-NEWSLINE	06/30/22	\$120,000			\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total		\$2,446,448	\$658,437	\$589,739	\$60,000	\$1,308,176	\$1,138,272

Funding Status as of FY 23

All ARPA funds will be spent in full by the end of December 2022. At the start of FY 2023, ARPA project budgets were as follows.

ARPA-ECONTENT

Original Budget \$1,000,000

FY 2023 Budget	Amount
Allowable Overhead	\$40,000
Montana Memory Project	\$160,263
E-content	\$141,300
Total	\$341,563

Plans for Remaining Funds

Montana State Library is working with the State Law Library of Montana to digitize the Laws of the Territory of Montana starting in 1871, the Revised Codes of Montana from 1907 through 1977, and the Montana Code Annotated 1978-2021. In total, this project scans 375 historic volumes (411,292 pages) and provides for the first time ever immediate, free public access. These laws will be available from library catalogs across Montana. Furthermore, the digitization project provides important preservation and conservation to aging print items vulnerable to loss or damage.

The Montana Memory Project plans to release 20 new Adventure Labs, featuring location-based discovery. The user will do a tour at a contemporary place with an app on their phone. The app will reveal historical pictures of that destination from the MMP. Other budget expenses include digitization projects and salary expenses for a metadata intern and the MMP director.

ARPA-HOTSPOT

Original Budget \$1,235,444

FY 2023 Budget	Amount
Allowable Overhead	\$49,418
Hot Spots	\$191,783
Connectivity	\$495,508
Total	\$736,709

Plans for Remaining Funds

The remaining hot spot funds will support the hot spot lending program, which provides nearly 1,000 hot spots to Montanans, through December 2022.

The broadband connectivity funds will be used to purchase equipment and installation. The State Library will also purchase equipment licenses for the 26 libraries that participated in the internal wiring project and for Cascade and Lewistown libraries, who piloted the project in 2021. The licenses will provide ten years of support.

ARPA-NEWSLINE

The Newline ARPA budget was fully expended, with the final invoice of \$60,000 paid August 8, 2022.

E-Content

Digital Reading & Educational Materials

The State Library purchased and distributed 696 Playaways, standalone audiobook devices with headphones. Forty-six public libraries received the devices which proved immediately popular, especially among patrons who do not have connectivity for downloadable audiobooks. Some children's Playaway titles include an audio device and print book bound together. These "read-along" books help build literacy skills and enhance comprehension.

Through the end of December, patrons at all Montana public and tribal libraries have remote access to the HeritageQuest genealogy database. HeritageQuest is a comprehensive database of American genealogical data including unique primary sources, local and family histories, and finding aids. HeritageQuest has over 500 searchable domestic and international databases for genealogical research, containing more than 5 billion total records that date back to the 1700s and represent over 60 countries.

The E-Resources Core Services Committee will evaluate these and all other ARPA funded e-resources in December 2022 and will make recommendations to the Network Advisory Council regarding future funding.

Montana Memory Project

Over the summer, the Montana Memory Project (MMP) director visited 15 communities to work on adding collections from the 14 unrepresented counties in the state. There are three remaining counties to visit. MMP also hosted a teacher workshop in August that was attended by 16 teachers. The participants learned how to conduct in-depth searches and constructed digital exhibits to use in the classroom. Two of the exhibits have already been published with the remaining expected later this fall.

This summer, the MMP added 15 collections to Recollect, including four new additions and 11 migrated collections from CONTENTdm. The website now features 174 published collections and over 74,000 items. Three ARPA-funded collections added in late August include new material in the [Local Histories of Montana](#) collection, the [Pattee Canyon Ladies Salon Collection from the Montana Museum of Art and Culture](#), and the [Great Falls Fire Department collection](#).

The MMP hired a college intern over the summer to work on the remaining collections to migrate to Recollect from CDM. The intern worked primarily on renaming over 7,000 digital files from Big Horn County Obituaries so that staff could match the digital files with the

correct metadata for upload. Staff started loading this collection to the website, and the MMP hopes to complete the entire collection of over 3000 obituaries in September.

Broadband

Hot Spot Lending Program

The hot spot lending program continues to demonstrate demand at Montana Libraries. In FY 22, the program observed a 49% increase in GB data use from the previous fiscal year. To date, Montana patrons have used 1.16 million GB of data from library hot spots.

State Library staff submitted a proposal to present at the Montana Library Association Fall Retreat where they hope to collect feedback from library participants and provide instruction on the [Hot Spot Lending Program](#) dashboard.

Internal Wiring

Cabling is now complete at 21 out of 26 libraries, with the remaining libraries expected to be finished in October. Once cabling is complete, new equipment can be installed by CompuNet. The following seven libraries have received both cabling and equipment:

- Bitterroot Public Library
- Carnegie Public Library
- Dillon Public Library
- Lincoln County Library – Libby
- Lincoln County Library – Troy
- Ronan Library District
- Thompson Falls Public Library

Libraries with upgraded cabling and equipment have observed increased internet speeds. For example, before the project, Ronan Library documented wireless speeds of 1.9 Mbps download and 35.68 Mbps upload. After upgrades, they now observe wireless speeds of 82.45 Mbps download and 92.05 Mbps upload, a large step toward the suggested 100 Mbps.

Newsline

Since sponsorship began in September 2021, Newsline has gained 66 subscribers for a total of 464 people, a growth of 17%. Though the user growth was modest, the new subscribers accessed significantly more resources.

In the 8 months before the sponsorship (the oldest period for which data is available), the service received, on average, a total of 52 call minutes per month. In the last 12 months, the average moved to 1,277 call minutes. In August, the total was 3,411 minutes, a large change from the 60 minutes documented in August 2021. The change can be attributed to both an increase in the total number of calls and the average length of each call.

Content access also demonstrated growth, moving from an average monthly access count of 6,632 to 8,952. The count was 10,540 in August 2022, more than double the August 2021 count of 5,045. Montana Newspapers continue to be the most popular content type followed by National Newspapers.