

## FACT SHEET - LSTA REAUTHORIZATION

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the major federal grant program for libraries, was passed September 30, 1996 as part of the Museum and Library Services Act. This was a natural evolution of federal aid for library programs to meet changing needs. Administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, LSTA replaced the Library Services and Construction Act and Title II of the Higher Education Act. LSTA must be reauthorized by September 30, 2002 to allow Congress to continue appropriating funds.

Throughout year 2000, a broadly representative inter-association Coalition on LSTA Reauthorization met to develop broad-based support for the reauthorization of LSTA predicated on significant increases in funding for the Act's purposes in meeting identified needs.

Presented here is a brief description of the current program, LSTA accomplishments, and changes being proposed by the inter-association Coalition on LSTA Reauthorization.

### Currently LSTA

- Consolidates federal aid programs
- Provides maximum flexibility through a state-based program to meet individual state and local needs
- Funds support of Native American library services as well as National Leadership Grants that target education and training; research and demonstration; preservation and digitization; and collaboration between museums and libraries.
- Authorizes an annual appropriation of \$150 million and such sums thereafter through 2002
- Simplified purposes included two major components: (1) to provide technology and support for networking and resource sharing and (2) to provide service to people in rural and urban areas who have difficulty using a library with a special emphasis on children in poverty.
- Encourages interlibrary cooperation and partnerships among all types of libraries
- Emphasizes accountability and evaluation

### First Three Year's Accomplishments:

- LSTA has had a significant role in extending public access to the Internet and the World Wide Web through libraries
- LSTA has enabled libraries to forge new partnerships with a wide variety of organizations in extending library services
- LSTA has been the source of significant innovation in serving the needs of people who have difficulty using a library

### Maintain the current strengths of the Act with these recommended revisions (Highlights)

- Increase the authorized annual appropriation from less than \$200 million to a minimum \$500 million
- Provide funding for an analysis of the impact of library services in addressing national needs in annually selected areas of concern
- Increase the base grant to all states
- Emphasize the inclusiveness of the program and its focus on assisting libraries of all types