

Per Capita Per Square Mile State Aid Funding for MT Public Libraries



Unequal Library Services

- Level of library services differs by wealth of community
- Variant local funding levels causes wealthier areas to be able to provide more resources and more advanced library services.



Solution

- Per capita/per square mile state aid appropriation
- Libraries use State Aid to streamline service delivery by partnering with other libraries; providing seamless and cohesive services from one location to the next.



Every Montanan Deserves Quality Services

Libraries must adhere to the Public Library Standards in order to receive state aid funding; ensuring that every Montanan has access to a core level of services.



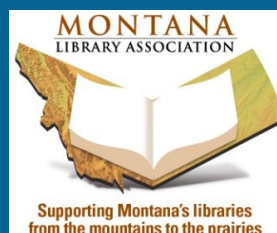
"I don't know what we would have done without this (Hot Spot)."

- Mother and school age daughter checking out a WiFi Hot Spot at ImagineIF Libraries of Flathead County

22-1-316, Montana Code Annotated

In 2013, HB 203 passed the legislature. The bill increased the per capita/per square mile state aid to public libraries in Montana through a statutory appropriation. The original per capita/per square mile state aid legislation was created in 1989; however, funding was not appropriated until 1999.

- From 1999 to 2013 there was NO increase in the amount appropriated for state aid. Prior to the passage of HB 203, the appropriation was \$102,830 per year divided among the 82 public libraries in Montana.
- In 2021 Public libraries should receive a modest increase in State Aid funding if the official 2020 Census count for Montana increases.
- With the successful passage of the per capita/per square mile increase, the funding went from \$102,830 per year (approximately \$.10 per citizen) to \$395,766 per year (\$.40 per citizen).
- The per capita/per square mile funding is distributed to public libraries based on a formula found in Administrative Rule 10.102.4003.



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State Aid Impact Stories

WiFi - School and Homework Support

"A parent stopped me at the check out station to thank me for the laptop and hotspot she was checking out. She had her elementary aged daughter with her. Pointing to her daughter, the mom said: 'I don't know what we would have done without this. The school gave us a Chromebook but we don't have internet. We need a way for her to do her school work until we figure this out.' Now they can checkout digital books, search the library catalog, and do homework at home until they sort out their internet issues."

- Connie Behe, Director, ImagineIF Libraries of Flathead County

Senior Services

"I received a call from a lady. She wanted to know if we could put together some books for her husband. He wasn't in good health and he couldn't be out in the public and had nothing to read. I set up a library card for them and a bag of books for curbside service. She was so happy her husband could finally read, she cried over the phone and sent us a small donation in appreciation."

- Nancy Royan, Director, Wedsworth Library

Up to Date Technology

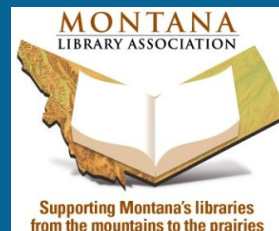
"As our cities and state population continue to grow, more and more services are expected from libraries. State Aid is essential if libraries want to keep up with new technology as well as preserve the traditional lending of materials."

- Joey Kositzky, Director, Whitefish Community Library

Small Town, Big Business

"A gentleman came in asking how far he would have to drive to get service as he needed to place a conference call overseas. I informed him we have Wi-Fi, computers, headphones with microphones, copy and fax abilities. He made his call with signature and document exchanges via fax/scanning and thumb drive. He was very impressed with our small library capabilities. All made possible with State Aid Funds."

- Cathy Brandvold, Director, Valier Public Library



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