
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

State Library

History

In 2011, legislation created a streamlined model of State-funded support services for libraries by combining the Library Service Areas and the State Library into a single agency, Iowa Library Services. The new agency provides local support services to Iowa libraries and helps ensure the consistent availability of services across the State, especially in rural areas.

The legislation established six district offices, each staffed by a library resources technician. It also adjusted library district boundaries to ensure that Iowa libraries have equitable access to district staff. Previously, the number of public libraries served by a Library Service Area ranged from 69 to 121. With the new district boundaries, the range is 87 to 96. The new boundaries balance the number of libraries served with the driving distance within the district.

Program Overview

The State Library is known as the Division of Library Services in Iowa Code and is attached to the Department of Education for administrative purposes. The State Librarian is responsible for the Division's budgeting and related management functions. The nine-member Commission of Libraries appoints the State Librarian to administer the Division. The State Librarian serves at the pleasure of the Commission. The Commission is responsible for adopting rules under Iowa Code chapter [17A](#) to address the responsibilities of the Division, and approves the budget and the service plans.

The State Librarian organizes a library services advisory panel to advise and make recommendations to the Commission and the Division on evidence-based best practices, assist the Commission and Division to determine service priorities and launch programs, articulate the needs and interests of Iowa librarians, and share research and professional development information.

The State Library consists of three units:

- Library Support Network.
- Specialized Library Services.
- State Data Center.

The Library Support Network offers services and programs for libraries, including individualized, locally delivered consulting and training; facilitation of resource sharing and innovation through the use of technology; administration of Enrich Iowa programs; advocating for libraries; promoting excellence and innovation in library services; encouraging governmental subdivisions to provide local financial support for local libraries; and ensuring the consistent availability of quality service to all libraries throughout the State. There are six district offices, each serving between 13 and 22 counties. The district offices serve as a basis for providing field services to local libraries in the counties comprising the district.

More Information

State Library of Iowa: www.statelibraryofiowa.org
LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

Specialized Library Services provides information services to the three branches of State government and offers focused information services to the general public in the areas of Iowa law, Iowa state documents, and Iowa history and culture. The Law Library is under the direction of the Specialized Library Services unit. The Law Library is maintained in the State Capitol or in rooms convenient to the State Supreme Court and is available for free use by the residents of Iowa under rules the Commission adopts.

The State Data Center is administered by the State Data Center coordinator and provides U.S. Census data to the residents of Iowa. The coordinator acts as the State's liaison with the United States Census Bureau on matters relating to the Decennial Census, Economic Census, Census of Agriculture, Population Estimates, and Population Projections.

Funding

The Division receives a State General Fund appropriation and federal grants. Federal funding is subject to a maintenance of effort requirement, based on a three-year rolling average of State funding. Federal funding from federal fiscal years 2012 to 2016 averaged \$1.8 million annually. The State Library General Fund appropriation has recently been funded at \$2.5 million annually.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [286](#)

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