



# 2023 Improving Access to Information Grants

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## EIGHTEEN LIBRARIES AWARDED NEW LSTA GRANTS!

The Library of Michigan (LM) is pleased to announce eighteen Improving Access to Information grants for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. LM received 26 applications from academic and public libraries working to provide further access and services to their students and communities. The awards total \$356,541.

The Improving Access to Information grant program is intended to help Michigan's public and academic libraries provide improved access to collections in one of four areas; literacy, local history or special collections, increased programming capacity, and services to community users with limited online access, e.g. improving equity through digital inclusion. Two libraries received local history or special collections grants, four libraries received programming grants, five libraries received digital inclusion grants, and seven libraries received literacy related grants. The project descriptions are listed below.

Clinton Township Public Library – “Sensory Friendly Inclusion Space” - \$16,218

The Sensory Friendly Inclusion Space (SFIS) will provide a quiet, low sensory space for patrons with neurodivergencies such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and patrons with sound sensitivities. The space will include equipment necessary to use the area personal study space, zoom meetings, and small group meetings as well as provide digital literacy training.

Clinton-Macomb Public Library – “Equity through Audio - Bridging the Literacy Gap” - \$15,927

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library provides a rotating collection of books to first and second grade classrooms and some preschools in the library service area. The mobile collection targets community members with low reading outcomes. The project will improve the mobile collections by adding audiobooks to the mobile collection and add related backpack literacy kits at the library to improve accessibility to reading for students who are not yet able to read books independently or who struggle to read at grade level.

Detroit Public Library – “Building Digital Bridges” - \$25,000

DPL's project is to expand the popular Laptop to Go program so that more customers can check out devices for personal use. With an expansion, the library can improve electronic access for customers who have limited ability to access online resources. The library provides currently technical support for those checking out devices, including a troubleshooting technician on-site at the Main Library. A successful grant will extend the current project to reach diverse geographies, enhance technological literacy skills, and offer technological connections to different socioeconomic populations.

Eastern Michigan University Library – “Shining a Light: Transcribing the Jennie Pease D'Ooge Diaries” - \$24,984

EMU has received a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding for the Jennie Pease D'Ooge diaries transcription. Between 1886 and 1934, Jane “Jennie” Pease D'Ooge, kept a daily account of life in Ypsilanti, Michigan. These 39 journals provide

an extensive recollection of life. The initial transcriptions have revealed a rich tapestry of daily life in the early 20th century of Michigan and over the course of the year EMU Archives will hold a number of 'gather and type' events to create community and continue to increase engagement with these resources. Ultimately, the grant will be used to complete the transcription of, and improve description for, the digitized journals to increase accessibility to these invaluable primary sources.

Eaton Rapids Area District Library – “StoryWalk” - \$9,323

This project will enhance the current StoryWalk program by introducing a new installation on the Hamlin Township walking trail. The new installation will enable provide a StoryWalk experience in each of the library service areas, making outdoor literacy activities accessible to all. The goal is to create a sustainable and enjoyable literacy experience for our community.

Farmington Community Library – “Improving the Public Library Experience with Accessibility and Disability Support Services” - \$23,787

This project will develop a collection of items to assist residents with visual, hearing, and mobility impairments. The goal is to remove access barriers to Library resources, services, and facilities with the inclusion of disability-friendly software, materials, and devices. As many everyday tasks transition to a virtual environment, there is an increased need for accessible options for residents, particularly those with hearing and visual impairments.

Grant Area District Library – “Expanding S.T.E.M. Opportunities: Bridging the Digital Divide” - \$5,400

This project will increase capacity at S.T.E.M. programming events, such as robotics and animation programs by increasing the number of iPads available for participant use. The iPads will serve as versatile tools, allowing participants of all ages to explore, experiment, and create through interactive applications and educational games. Through increased access and participation, the goal is to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and develop problem-solving abilities in community members.

Grosse Pointe Public Library – “Equitable Access & Digital Inclusion” - \$23,995

This project will create additional ways for patrons to engage in library programming by improving the library's virtual and hybrid programming capacity. The current use of hybrid programming has allowed for greater attendance to otherwise physically limited programs, and with this project, the library is determined to continue providing accessible and equitable programs by enhancing the technology toolset in the library.

Leighton Township Library – “Health and Food Literacy through Community Garden and Programming” - \$14,821

This project will create a community garden to increase health and food literacy in Leighton Township. The vision for the project is to:

- Inspire the community to discover the joys of gardening.
- Teach the community about gardening, harvesting, seed saving, healthy eating, and cooking.
- Educate the community on growing healthy food.
- Foster an attitude of sharing.
- Establish a collection of local seeds for community wide sharing.

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Lydia M. Olson Library, Northern Michigan University – “Teaching Literacies through Archival Collections” - \$24,982

The Lydia M. Olson Library will develop a program to enhance educators’ ability to teach primary source literacy and critical information literacy skills using archival materials. Using the Central Upper Peninsula and NMU Archives’ collections, the project will develop a professional development program for Upper Peninsula’s teachers. The program will include four parts: 1) a webinar to introduce educators to the principles of primary source literacy and critical information literacy; 2) a three-day in-person Summer Institute designed to provide hands-on experience working with archival materials; 3) the creation of curriculum materials, and 4) the creation of a website which highlights the curriculum materials created.

Millington Arbela District Library – “Early Literacy Expansion” - \$7,622

The Millington Library’s early literacy expansion will increase the number of literacy kits, phonics books, and toy and book kits the library provides. The expansion will also add an early literacy station to the library and add early literacy activities to the current story time program. The desired outcome of the project is that the children of the Millington and Arbela communities are kindergarten ready and also makes it more likely for their educational and career success in their lives.

Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) – “Self-service Laptop Lending” - \$25,000

MADL has received a grant to provide a self-service laptop kiosk at their Montague branch. The kiosk will be available to MADL Montague Branch cardholders during regular library operating hours as well as extended times in the branch’s lobby. Patrons can scan their library card at the kiosk and a laptop with LTE internet dispenses for 3 days of use. The laptop can be put back into the kiosk at any time and the patron may check out another if one is available. Expanding library circulation to include laptops helps bring technology, internet connectivity, and equity to patrons with little to no affordable broadband options and with limited device access.

Oakland University - Educational Resources Lab – “Library of Manipulatives” - \$25,000

This project will create a comprehensive and accessible collection of manipulatives in the Educational Resources Lab for local area teachers, students, and various programs within and around Oakland University's School of Education. The range of disciplines covered, such as mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, STEM, early childhood, and social-emotional learning, ensures that the manipulatives support learning across various subjects and age groups. The goal is to create a dynamic and inspiring learning environment for area educators and students.

Saint Clair Shores Public Library – “Pop-up and Make” - \$21,950

The Saint Clair Shores Public Library will create a pop-up makerspace that will act as a central hub to create engagement within the community for creative and collaborative production and informal knowledge sharing. The "space" will contain the tools to work on a variety of projects, like STEAM activities and art projects for all ages. Patrons will be encouraged to think creatively and critically and foster a common culture of learning, building, and creating together.

**Southfield Public Library – “Removing Barriers to Technology Project” - \$25,000**

This project will increase access for disabled library users. It will focus on improving access to existing resources through the availability of accessible computer workstations, adaptive software, and staff training, which will allow the library to provide appropriate support to disabled populations. This project aligns with the library’s commitment to serving all members of the community equitably and ensuring that services are accessible and inclusive.

**Spring Lake District Library – “Programming for an Accessible and Inclusive Library” - \$25,000**

Spring Lake District Library’s project aims to enhance the library experience for children with disabilities. To accomplish this, the children's area will be made more inclusive and accessible for all by adding passive activities, furnishings, and equipment focused on the needs of children with disabilities. Offering a variety of tools, furniture, interactive wall activities, and a touchscreen table will mean that these students have options to participate and can make choices about how they want to participate.

**Vermontville Township Library – “Vermontville Story Center” - \$24,969**

The Vermontville Story Center project will install a permanent StoryWalk® in a nearby pass-through park. The area will also include a Little Free Library and will be used for story time and other library programming. It will give access to our community members to a space dedicated to reading at all hours. The goal is to provide more reading opportunities for the community, to serve a population that may not be able to attend the library during regular library hours.

**Warren Public Library – “Warren Digital History Project” - \$17,763**

The Warren Digital History Project will collect and preserve the stories, including oral histories and digital artifacts, of people who live in Warren. During the grant period, the project will focus specifically on elderly residents, minorities, and immigrants. The library will host a series of preservation workshops, will create five local history kits that can be used in the library, or checked out to community members, and library will make the interviews and other digitized materials available through the Suburban Library Cooperative’s Local History Digital Archive.

If you would like more information about the Library of Michigan grant programs, please go to [www.michigan.gov/lsta](http://www.michigan.gov/lsta) and see the grant programs sections for program descriptions and documentation.

The Library of Michigan grant programs are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.