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EDUCATION AND  
LABOR CABINET

## Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Interim Joint Committee on State Government  
June 24, 2025

# Presenters

## Education and Labor Cabinet:

- Denise Lyons, Commissioner/State Librarian,  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
- Jacob Fouts, Assistant Director, Division of Fiscal Management
- Cali Mills Arnold, Executive Director of Legislative Services

# Information Requested by Committee

General overview of the organizational, operational, and budgetary structure and functions of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives ([KDLA](#)) including:

- Reporting structure
- Funding structure (general fund, federal funds, restricted funds, etc.)
- Types of assistance provided to local libraries
- Types of assistance provided to state institutional libraries
- Federal or state funds distributed by the department
- Federal or state reporting requirements for department disbursements and expenditures

# Reporting Structure

- The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) is an agency of the Education and Labor Cabinet
- There are two [divisions](#): the Division of Archives and Records Management, and the Division of Library Services
- KDLA provides access to high-quality library resources and services, and ensures government records and activities are documented, preserved, and made available for public use

# Funding Structure

## Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations

### General Operations

• General Fund	\$6,777,800
• Restricted Funds	\$1,412,100
• Federal Funds	\$3,057,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,247,300</b>

### Direct Local Aid

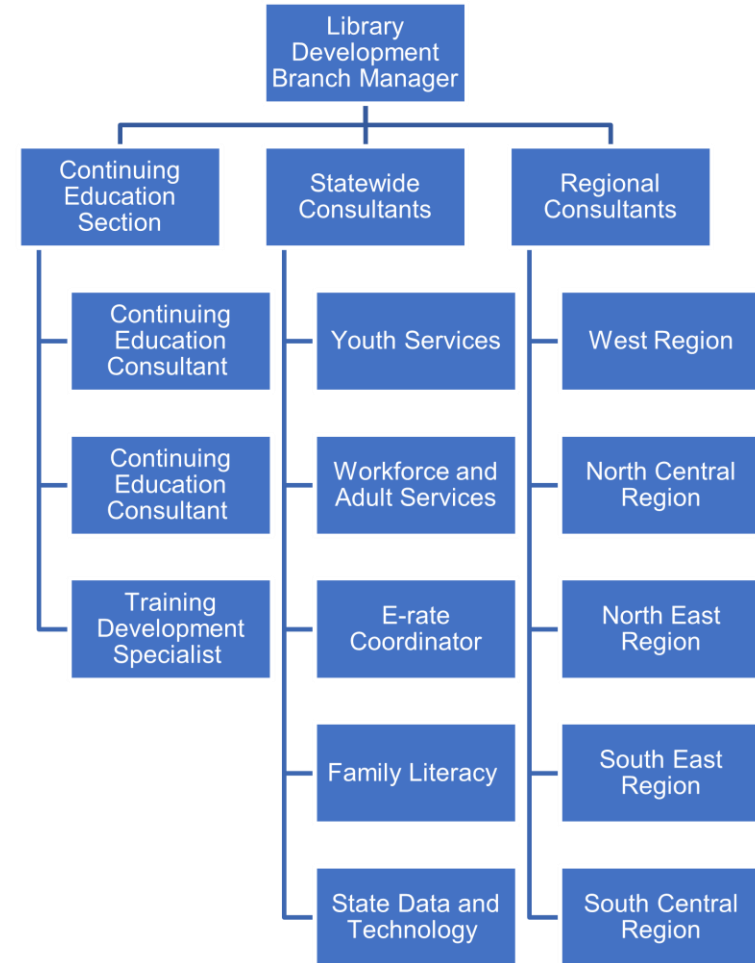
• General Fund	\$6,609,700
• Restricted Funds	\$1,046,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,656,600</b>

### Total KDLA Appropriations

General Fund	\$13,387,500
Restricted Funds	\$2,459,000
Federal Funds	\$3,057,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,903,900</b>

# Assistance Provided to Local Libraries

- Library Development branch
  - 5 regional consultants
  - 5 statewide/specialty consultants
  - 3 continuing education specialists
    - Liaison to State Board for the Certification of Librarians
    - Public Library Trustee Certification Program
    - All types of training including virtual, in-person, and learning portal



# Consulting Assistance for Local Libraries

- Guidance and training for library administrators, staff, and governance for library operations, management, construction, technology, finance, data collection, policies, and programming
- Summer reading programs, STEM/STEAM learning, family literacy, and outreach services
- Adult education, workforce activities, health and wellness, outreach and bookmobiles, book clubs
- E-Rate (“educational rate”) Consultant:
  - Federally funded reimbursement program for libraries and schools for technology and communications; 100 of Kentucky’s libraries participate
  - Kentucky has received more than \$28 million in since 1998

# Agency Assistance for Local Libraries

- State Library Services Branch also assists with the 1,400+ programming and book kits, materials and collections, and courier service
- Kentucky Talking Book Library provides assistive technology and guidance on KTBL services
- KDLA Archives and Records Division assist libraries with records management (i.e. retention) in accordance with the requirements of Kentucky's State Archives and Records Act, [KRS 171.410-171.740](#)



# Assistance to State Institutional Libraries

- KDLA provides some funding support for databases through the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL), which also assist the academic libraries
- KDLA provides reference services to inmates in prison libraries

# Federal Funds Distribution and Reporting

- The Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) provides the guidance for the Grants to States program through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)
  - The program still requires reauthorization by Congress by October 1, 2025
- Kentucky has received approximately \$2,700,000 in LSTA funding with grant funds through September 30, 2026
- State libraries write and submit a five-year plan illustrating how the funds will be spent according to federal guidance and state needs
- Annual reports are submitted and a formal written evaluation is submitted at the end of the five-year cycle to [IMLS](#)

# Federal Funds Distribution and Reporting

## Kentucky Talking Book Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (KTBL)

- Provides library services to people unable to read traditional print due to vision loss or a physical or reading disability, many of whom are elderly and/or Veterans

## Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL)

- Online set of databases used for research, health and wellness information, literacy programs, standardized practice tests, workforce development tools, and genealogy
- Digital lending (e-books, audiobooks) and courier service, which delivers thousands of interactive learning and literacy kits throughout the state

## Special Projects and Subgrants

- Grants can be one-time funds (i.e. conference attendance, continuing education/MLIS)
- Other subgrants assist libraries to address community needs such as updating websites, technology, family literacy programs, outreach, disaster response and recovery, leadership

# State Funds: General Fund Distribution and Reporting

- General Fund distribution
  - Construction assistance provides debt subsidy for library construction projects
  - Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Kentucky (KRS 171.228): \$2.5 million per year, rolls over to pay 50% of mailing and operational costs

# State Funds:

## Restricted Funds Distribution and Reporting

- Librarian Certification Program (KRS 171.230-306) fees for scholarships
- Kentucky Talking Book Library: two donation accounts
- Bookmobile: previous project appropriation
- State Library Customer Service (fees)
- Local Record Program Grant Funds (KRS 171.540(2), 171.520)
  - KAR is currently being updated: \$1,046,900 annual allotment
  - 36 emergency grants awarded this fiscal year
  - Funds come from \$1 fee of county clerk operations, returned in grants to clerks (90% of allotment) and local records projects



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**Thank You**