The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was reauthorized under the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) of 2010 (S. 3984) and signed by the president on December 22, 2010. LSTA will be up for reauthorization again in 2015. LSTA is the only federal program exclusively for libraries and the last appropriation was $213.5 million for FY2010. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). LSTA funds are used for:

1. Grants to States which is a population based formula grant designed to support library services in communities.
2. Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services to support improved access to library services for Native Americans, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiians.
3. National Leadership Grants to support activities of national significance that enhances the quality of library services nationwide and provide coordination between libraries and museums.
4. Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians is used to develop and promote the next generation of librarians.

Around the country, knowledgeable librarians use LSTA funding to help library users access essential information on a wide range of topics. They offer training on résumé development, help on web searches of job banks, workshops on career information, links to essential educational and community services, assistive devices for people with disabilities, family literacy classes, homework help and mentoring programs, information on religions and other cultures, access to government information, a forum for enhanced civic engagement, and much more.

During the current financial crisis, Congress must continue to support libraries – the bedrock of many communities in America. In December 2010 LSTA was reauthorized at $232 million, and fully funding LSTA at the authorized level in FY2012 will allow libraries to better provide services for your constituents’ needs.