

Major Provisions of the  
Library Services and Construction Act

P.L. 88-269

Signed by President Johnson February 11, 1964

Public Law 88-269 amends the Library Services Act of 1956:

(1) By increasing Federal financial assistance to promote the development of public library service (Title I) to all areas (urban and rural) without public library services or with inadequate services.

(2) By adding a new provision for Federal assistance for the construction of public library buildings (Title II) in areas lacking the facilities necessary for the development of library services.

The State library administrative agency in each State prepares State plans and submits these to the U.S. Commissioner of Education for approval. The determination of the best uses of the funds provided is reserved to the States and their local subdivisions.

Funds are allotted to the States in proportion to their population and are matched by the States in proportion to their per capita income with 66% as the maximum Federal share and 33% as the minimum Federal share.

Any portion of a State's allotment for either title which will not be required to carry out the State plan for any year shall be made available for reallocation to other States having a need for additional funds for that purpose.

Title I (Services):

Funds may be used for salaries, books and other library materials, library equipment and other operating expenses, including costs of administering the State plan for construction.

Authorizes \$25 million for Fiscal 1964 and such sums as Congress may determine for Fiscal Years 1965 and 1966.

Title I is effective July 1, 1964 for both urban and rural areas; it is effective during Fiscal Year 1964 for rural areas only (places of less than 10,000 population).

The minimum allotment which must be matched is \$100,000 for each of the States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia and \$25,000 each for American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

To remain eligible for a Federal grant, a State must maintain its expenditures for all public library service at least at the same level as in Fiscal 1963; and State and local expenditures for public library service must not fall below the 1963 level. State allotments for Fiscal 1964 will remain available in Fiscal 1965.

Title II (Construction):

Construction is defined as meaning the construction of new public library buildings and the expansion, remodeling, and alteration of existing buildings for public libraries and initial equipment of such buildings. Architect's fees and the cost of the acquisition of land are also included in the definition.

State plans will describe criteria used for insuring that construction projects are for facilities to serve areas, as determined by the State library administrative agency, which are without library facilities necessary to develop library services.

Authorizes \$20 million for Fiscal 1964 and such sums as the Congress may determine for Fiscal Years 1965 and 1966.

Title II is effective in Fiscal 1964 for both urban and rural areas.

The basic allotment is \$80,000 for each of the States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia and \$20,000 each for American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands but payments of lesser amounts may be made.

State allotments for Fiscal 1964 would remain available in Fiscal 1965 but beginning in 1965 the amount carried forward will be limited to projects approved during the year in which the allotment was made.

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In signing the Library Services and Construction Act, President Johnson said:

"...Good public libraries must be placed within the reach of all of our people. Libraries are not just for the young and the curious about an exciting world. They are not just for our youth preparing for their careers. They are not just for busy people looking for information to do their jobs. Libraries are for everyone and therein lies their real value...

"This Nation needs a larger and more diversified collection of books. We need better housing for these books. We sorely need libraries closer to the people, whether through more centrally located libraries or through bookmobiles and branch locations. The central fact of our times is this: Books and ideas are the most effective weapons against intolerance and ignorance. . . ."

Prepared by the  
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U.S. Office of Education  
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