

Questions From Hearing

School participation in the Community Shares Program / How would additional \$500,000 be used?

The eGO CT Community Share (Pilot Program) is currently open to **170** school sites that use the Destiny catalog for books (a Baker & Taylor product). Our goal is to connect the remaining **765** school sites to the Connecticut State Library eBook collection. For an additional \$400,000 we could connect the remaining schools and provide ongoing access.

How else could an increase to the Statewide Digital Library allocation be used?

The State Library current provides statewide access to 38 databases, at a FY22 cost avoidance for libraries and schools of **\$41,480,364**. For **\$300,000**, the State Library could acquire 5 new databases:

1. [American Mosaic](#) from ABC-CLIO
Description: The American Mosaic series provides a platform for interdisciplinary research and learning in Ethnic Studies and American history. The rich cultural history of each group is illustrated through primary sources, scholarly articles, and media entries.
2. [Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints](#) – Gale
Description: Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints is the premier online resource covering today's hottest social issues, from capital punishment to immigration to marijuana. This cross-curricular resource supports science, social studies, current events, and language arts classes. Informed, differing views help learners develop critical-thinking skills and draw their own conclusions.
3. [Pronunciator](#)
Description: Pronunciator has a vast number of languages to learn (164), an unparalleled number of home languages (146), but also a peerless amount of instructional content available — an average of 10,000 instructional phrases per language. This is 20 times more content than the nearest competitor.
4. [World Book Online](#)
Description: World Book Online, from the publishers of the World Book Encyclopedia, provides access over 31,000 encyclopedia articles, 6,000 web links, 25,000 periodical articles, 800 animations and sounds, 400 interactive maps, 100 3-D bubble views, and much more.
5. [Bookflix](#) – Scholastic
Description: BookFlix® is a digital literacy resource that pairs more than 120 animated stories from Weston Woods with a best-selling nonfiction eBook from Scholastic on a similar subject. The fiction and nonfiction pairings are designed to strengthen early literacy skills while exposing young learners to real world concepts.

Does the UConn Library participate in the statewide delivery service?

UConn is not a regular participant, but does lend materials to research, public, and other libraries nationwide through other interlibrary loan services.

CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) (formerly Library for the Blind) Advisory Committee Roster

1. Anne Fortunato – CVSBH representative
2. Katie Wiseman – Veterans Administration Low Vision representative
3. Mary Silverberg – Patron
4. Peter Williams – State Education Resource Center representative
5. Kevin McNally - Patron or eligible for CTLAB service, LIONS Low-Vision representative

6. Sandra Streeter – Patron, South East CT Community Center of the Blind representative
7. Fred Chidester - Patron
8. Eileen Kelly - Patron
9. John Carrona - Patron
10. Deb Reed - Patron, National Federation of the Blind of CT representative

CTLAB Hub Library Partners

1. Bristol Public Library
2. Danbury Public Library
3. Darien Library
4. Killingly Public Library
5. Otis Library (Norwich)
6. Simsbury Public Library
7. Slater Library (Jewett City)
8. Stratford Library
9. Weston Public Library

Recommendations for further CTLAB Support

CTLAB is part of a national network of libraries who serve blind and print disabled patrons, and it is operated in partnership with the Library of Congress, National Library Service. It is chiefly supported by federal funds (approximately \$150 million in direct and in-kind support each year, which provides all reading materials, direct-to-patron delivery, equipment, and related items). Connecticut supports some CTLAB personnel, provides the operations center, and other small incidentals. \$100,000 was first appropriated to directly support CTLAB services in FY23. This funding has allowed us to acquire assistive technology devices and equipment, stand up hub library locations, increase outreach initiatives, and similar purchases. In future, this funding will continue to fund these efforts, as well as fund training opportunities for CTLAB staff related to their duties and to better serve CTLAB patrons. The State Library is currently developing ways to support training opportunities for library and museum staff in Connecticut so they can better serve individuals who are blind or print disabled, and additional funds could go to support this initiative.

Provide further details on CSL positions and funding sources

(see attached spreadsheet and below)

Rep. Nuccio Requests for Information for the Subcommittee Work Sessions

Headcount questions:

1. What is the authorized headcount, the funded headcount and the filled headcount for your area?
Authorized: 53
Funded: 53
Filled: 45
2. If there is change in headcount (either up or down) please provide an explanation of the change.
 - a. If there is a positive change in headcount, please explain why these positions are needed
N/A – No new position requests

- b. If these adds are legislatively driven, what piece of legislation is driving the increase?

N/A

3. Are there any vacant positions in your headcount? **Yes**

- a. If yes, how are they budgeted into your plan? (as a full year FTE or partial? Are they fulltime or part time?)

Actively recruiting for 8 budgeted Full Time General Fund positions (mostly due to prior FY retirements)

- b. What is the anticipated start date of your vacancies? Are they staggered throughout the year, or all anticipated to start on July 1?

Staggered. Each potential candidate will have to go through the DAS recruitment process (application, interview, offer)

4. How many vacancies did you have at year end on 06/30? **6**

- a. How many vacancies did you have throughout the year last fiscal year? **Avg 4**

- b. How many new hires did you have in the same time period? **2**

5. What is the average cost of an FTE for your area? **2559.85 Bi-Wkly**

6. What is the average fringe cost of an FTE in the comptrollers area?

Fringe benefits costs are based on the retirement plan in which each employee is enrolled. Average rates, as a percentage of payroll, for FY 2023 are as follows:

	Retirement Plans				
	SERS Reg	SERS HD	ARP	Judges	TRS
SERS Regular	67.40%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SERS HD	n/a	91.49%	n/a	n/a	n/a
ARP	n/a	n/a	14.60%	n/a	n/a
Judges	n/a	n/a	n/a	111.34%	n/a
TRS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.89%
Unemployment Comp	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%
Group Life	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%
Social Security FICA	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
Social Security Medicare	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
Active Health	22.00%	22.00%	22.00%	22.00%	22.00%
TOTAL FRINGE RATE	97.46%	121.55%	44.66%	141.40%	68.95%

Lapse Questions:

1. Were there any lapsing accounts on 06/30? **Yes**

- a. If yes, what were the accounts? **12061 Digital Library**

- b. If yes, what was the lapse balance? **130,000**

- c. If yes, what drove the lapse? **Vendor could not provide deliverables by Fiscal Year-End**
What spending didn't occur that was planned to occur? **Server payment**

2. If there is a lapsing balance, do you anticipate it carrying forward? **Yes**

- a. If yes, how do you propose to use that lapse? **Carryforward was used to make payment upon deliverable.**

- b. Will it be for one-time expenses? **Yes**

- i. If so, what are those one-time expenses? **Server payment**

- c. If ongoing expense is that expense built into this budget in FY 25? **N/A**

1. Did you receive any ARPA funding in your department? **Yes, to administer construction projects for municipal libraries on behalf of OPM.**
 - a. If yes, have you assumed the programs/staffing established with the ARPA funding is now in your General Fund budget as an ongoing expense? **No, Funding remains in federal fund until used.**
 - i. If not all, how much? **None**
 - b. Are there still ARPA funds included in this budget? **No**
 - i. If yes, how much of this budget is continuation of ARPA funding?
 - ii. How much ARPA do you still have in the budget that may need to be picked up as ongoing expenses in out years? **566,626 in federal fund not yet allotted to CSL.**

General Questions:

1. Is there anything you would change about this budget? **The State Library's budget has been reduced 32% over the past 12+ years. This has impacted general operations, acquisitions particularly in the area of law and legislative materials, incentive grants to public libraries, BorrowIt reimbursements, and more. In addition, library materials costs increase every year, even to maintain the same content, so a flat budget allocation is a functional cut for us. As the State Archives, Public Records Administrator, principal law library, and the repository of state history, we are an agency that provides widespread support to all three branches of government. Our current budget continues to be insufficient to adequately meet our many statutory mandates.**
2. Is there anything you would add to this budget? **See above. With additional funds, we could restore key resources, better support public libraries and other agencies, and innovate rather than focus on minimal maintenance efforts.**
3. Is there anything you would remove from this budget? **No**
4. Is there any legislation that was passed you feel you are not adequately prepared to enforce? **No**
 - a. If so, what would we need to change to make it administer-able?