

KDLA Report
Report to the KLA Board
Lexington, Kentucky
March 3, 2012

Budget

The Legislature is considering the state budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2012. The Governor's proposed budget includes a reduction of 4.2% for KDLA operating and grants – with the lone exception being the construction grant program which had no reduction. Most state agencies were proposed for 8.4% reduction. Since the Legislature is showing no interest in additional revenue, the best case is for the 4.2% reduction. Previous reductions in state general funding have left little to cut other than staffing. If 4.2% reduction becomes reality, KDLA general fund operating will be reduced by \$275,626 and state aid to public libraries will be reduced by \$104,579.

We also expect a reduction in federal funding of about \$59,000 for the next fiscal year.

State Legislation

We are following several pieces of legislation of great interest to public libraries.

SB49 would change the way library boards are appointed by giving the County Judge Executive authority to pass over the nominees for appointment provided by the library board. This bill was passed by the Senate on a party line vote (with the exception of one Republican who crossed over) and is now in the hands of the House Local Government Committee.

SB127 would allow those counties without a public library district to create a library district with authority to appoint trustees and set tax rates with the fiscal court. It has been assigned to the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

HB48 would clarify the formula used to calculate property tax rates, confirm that libraries are covered by HB 44, and give KDLA legal authority to calculate rates for libraries. This bill has been assigned to the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

Legislative Day

Kentucky Library Legislative Day is being held on March 7 with visits to legislators by librarians and a rally in the Rotunda. READ posters of legislators will be displayed in the tunnel between the Capitol and the annex during the week of March 5. On March 6, the KPLA Advocacy Committee will hold an orientation for Legislative Day at the Paul Sawyer Public Library.

Federal Legislative Day will be held on April 24. We will be looking for a librarian from the First Congressional district who might want to attend.

Summer Reading Club

It appears that schools will be getting out very early this year, so plans for summer reading are accelerating. Children's librarians from across the state met in Frankfort on Feb. 16-17 to learn from workshop leaders and exchange ideas.

KDLA is continuing its partnership with KDE to promote reading during the summer using the Lexile scale that enables parents to match their children with age appropriate reading material. The First Lady has taped a promotional message.

KDLA is also arranging partnerships with the minor league baseball teams in Kentucky to promote summer reading.

Charlene Davis will be announcing a grant program in the coming days for libraries that might want to include the Summer Meals Program in their summer activities.

Trustees

A committee composed of KDLA staff, trustees, and librarians has completed a total revision of the Trustee Manual. It is being printed and will soon be available for purchase by libraries.

Another committee is working on development of the Trustee Certification Program. The program will be launched at the annual KPLA/KLTRT conference in April using a combination of ALA resources and materials developed by the Trustee Certification Committee. KDLA is already receiving applications for the new Trustee Certification.

Website

KDLA's new website is one year old. To celebrate, KDLA introduced a new database of Confederate Pension Applications from the state archives. This is the first of what will become many KDLA records available on-line. We are also working with ancestry.com to digitize more genealogical records from KDLA's archives.

BTOP Grant

The Federal grant for expanding public computing centers at 45 libraries and the accompanying Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant is entering its last 18 months. Over 500 computers have been added to public libraries for public computing in addition to a significant number of servers, routers, switches, and printers. As additional money is available, a second round of equipment purchases is underway. Federal funding is also being used to assist some of the libraries with additional broadband access for the first year. The libraries will apply for e-rate funding to continue this service.

One additional benefit of the Gates Foundation grant provides funding for an e-rate coordinator to work with public libraries. As a result of the work of this consultant during the past year, Kentucky libraries received 9% more e-rate funding (about \$80,000) than the previous year. This is the most libraries have received since 2004 when CIPA forced a reduction in the number of libraries applying. An additional 18 libraries are applying this year, many of them smaller libraries that have never had the expertise to apply previously.

Bridging the Gap grant

This Federal grant with NKU, BCTC, and KDLA is entering its last semester. It has brought hundreds of classes to almost 100 public library staff members. As a result of this grant, the very first graduate of NKU's College of Informatics Bachelor's in Library Science program was a staff member at the Trigg County Public Library. Others are getting close to degrees and many others have started working toward degrees. The grant has also offered many opportunities for attending conferences, writing articles, and participating in workshops.

Planning

Planning is a major area of focus at KDLA during the first half of 2012. By March 30, 2012 an evaluation of KDLA's 2007-2012 Library Services and Technology Act Plan is due. KDLA contracted with Lyasis to conduct the evaluation. This evaluation is nearing completion with a survey of KDLA's users being the final piece. The survey is currently underway.

Once the evaluation is complete, KDLA will begin the process of writing a new plan for 2012-2017 which is due June 30. Lyasis will also assist KDLA in developing this plan. It will become very important in determining how KDLA will use the ever decreasing federal funds to support library service across Kentucky. We are rapidly moving from the print age to the digital age, so KDLA is interested in providing assistance for libraries in making this conversion and meeting the needs of communities in the 21st century.

At the same time, the agency's strategic plan will be updated so that it compliments the 2012-2017 LSTA plan.

State Records Center

For many years, KDLA has worked to obtain more space for temporary state records. Permanent state records are held in the state archives on the third floor at KDLA. Temporary state records are housed in two inadequate warehouses in Frankfort. This service is funded by fees from state agencies, so additional state general fund money is not needed. Bids have been received, a low bidder chosen, and all other preparations have been made. We are awaiting the last necessary approval which we hope to receive any day! Once approved, the move will take 18 months as 200,000 boxes of records will be moved.

Library Development

In January, KDLA signed an agreement with the Livingston County Fiscal Court to establish a library district. Livingston County has never had a library, but received bookmobile service from Ballard County. The county is providing funding from the county's general fund to operate the library. The beautiful new Livingston County Public Library will open on March 2 as Kentucky's 119th public library system.

The groundbreaking for the new Pendleton County Public Library will take place on Mar. 6. This process has taken many years of effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Onkst