

KDLA Report
Report to the KLA Board
Sept. 19, 2012

Budget

The Legislature adopted a budget for the 2012-4 biennium that included a reduction of 4.2% for KDLA operating and grants – with the exception of the public library construction fund which no reduction. This was actually a victory as most state agencies took an 8.4% reduction. KDLA general fund operating will be reduced by \$249,500 and state aid to public libraries will be reduced by \$104,579. This is an especially difficult reduction as previous reductions have taken so much from KDLA's state general fund allocation. We are looking at a combination of actions to deal with the reduction including not filling vacancies, reducing travel, cutting back on purchases of library materials, consolidating some functions with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and reducing supplies. We will also be making reductions in federal funding. As this is the area where we support most of the library programming, programs will be affected. Services to institutional libraries and some private academic libraries are being reduced. The existing law calls for a reduction in federal funding of 9% in the year that starts October 1.

State Auditor's Survey of Special Districts

The State Auditor has undertaken a review of special districts by submitting a survey to all special districts across the state. KDLA staff assisted libraries as they completed the survey. There were a number of issues with the survey, but thanks to the work of KDLA staff in coordination with libraries we believe that 116 libraries (all that could possibly answer the survey) submitted responses. In addition the State Auditor has made a tour of the state to explain the purpose of the survey and communicate with the boards that oversee special districts. Library trustees and directors attended each of these sessions. The State Auditor has promised to make the information collected in the survey available for the public on a website. There is conflicting information as to whether he will propose legislation to be considered in the upcoming session of the legislature. However, he will be issuing a report on his findings. The State Auditor has told trustees and directors that he sees libraries as doing their business in an appropriate fashion, so we hope there will not be any adverse legislation proposed as a result of his study. He has promised not to penalize those who are doing things right in reaction to those who are not acting appropriately.

Trustee Certification

The Public Library Trustee Certification is off to a roaring start. The program was launched at the spring conference with almost 80 trustees participating in the initial training. 88 trustees have applied for certification and 42 have obtained full certification. The program is based on 5 hours of training provided by the American Library Association. KDLA staff is working with Paul Poland to develop Kentucky specific training to replace the ALA training. One hour of the training has been completed and is being used. Work on two more hours of training is underway with plans for its use this fall.

Trustee Manual

A new trustee manual has been produced by a committee of KDLA staff, trustees, and library directors. The manuals are being sold by KDLA and are also available on the KDLA website.

Summer Reading Club

This summer was different from any in memory as school ended so early this year. The libraries saw children earlier than ever and many adjusted the normal summer schedule to accommodate children and parents who suddenly had a longer summer. KDLA built on its partnership with KDE developed in 2011 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 taped a promotional message. Partnerships were arranged with the minor league baseball teams in Kentucky to promote summer reading.

A new component to the Summer Reading Club was a KDLA sponsored program to allow libraries to collaborate with the USDA Summer Feeding Program. 10 public libraries participated. We hope to continue the program next summer – if funding allows.

BTOP Grant

The Federal grant for expanding public computing centers at 45 libraries and the accompanying Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant is in its final year. Over 500 computers have been added to public libraries for public computing in addition to a significant number of servers, routers, switches, and printers. This 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.

In addition to the equipment provided through this grant, libraries are also conducting programming and services for unemployed and underemployed residents. Many libraries have undertaken programming that they never before considered and they also created many new partnerships that will provide dividends in the future.

As a supplement to this grant, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is providing 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. At this time, the federal government has committed more than \$900,000 to Kentucky public libraries as part of this program.

Bridging the Gap grant

This Federal grant with NKU, BCTC, and KDLA is entering its last semester. This grant 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. As required, KDLA submitted an evaluation of KDLA's 2007-2012 Library Services and Technology Act Plan to the federal government in March. Based on that evaluation and input from many sources – including the State Advisory Council on Libraries, KDLA wrote a new plan for spending federal funding during 2012-2017. This plan was submitted in June and is being reviewed by the staff at the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Charlene Davis will review this plan for the Council. 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.

We expect to update KDLA's strategic plan so that it complements the new federal 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. All approvals have been received from the Executive Branch and on Sept. 18 we will be appearing before the Legislature's Capitol Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. If approval is received, construction can begin. The move will take 18 months as 200,000 boxes of records will be moved. There is no general funds used as part of this project as receipts from records storage will pay the costs.

KDLA has also undertaken a training initiative for state agency records officers in records management. A bi-monthly workshop was offered in which 75 staff from 31 state government agencies participated. An online webinar is planned to continue this effort in the future.

Library Development

During the last 6 months there has been considerable library development. New libraries have opened in Bullitt County, Hancock County, Warren County, Nelson County and Jefferson County. Ground was broken for a new library in Greenup County.

Legal challenges

Unfortunately several legal challenges filed been filed against library boards. The library boards in Campbell County and Kenton County were sued with the contention that the boards could not raise property tax rates above the rates set by the petition when the library districts were created. These lawsuits have been moved from circuit court to federal court. The federal judge is considering a motion to dismiss the lawsuits.

A group of citizens in McLean County has sued the fiscal court for creating a library district early this year. This suit will be heard in McLean Circuit Court.

Sister Libraries

April Ritchie from the Kenton County Public Library has created a Sister Libraries project in which libraries are paired to assist one another. Usually this relationship pairs a larger library with a smaller library, though this is not always the case. At present, 8 sister relationships have been established:

Fulton County, Graves County, Marshall County, & McCracken County and Ballard/Carlisle Counties
Lexington Public Library - Magoffin County
Rowan County - Menifee County
Scott County - Nicholas County
Madison County - Estill County
Boyd County - Elliott County
Campbell County - McLean County
Kenton County - Carter County

We hope this program will benefit all libraries involved. There are many ways that libraries can share resources and expertise so that all benefit. The program has received considerable national interest and we hope it will grow in the future.

State Legislation

We are beginning to prepare for the 2013 legislative session. Though it will not be a budget session, we expect some legislation on special districts that would impact libraries. A legislator has already promised to propose a bill to require special districts to have their budget approved by the fiscal court. We will be opposing any legislation along these lines.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Onkst