

STLS Outreach Services

STLS receives three state grants which together fund System-centered outreach endeavors. These grants are determined by, and obtained through, adherence to NYS Education Law and Education Commissioner’s Regulations. Some things to note about the STLS outreach program:

- 1) Funding is separate from the general STLS budget
- 2) There are specific laws, guidelines, and regulations which determine how the funds may be used and who is to be served
- 3) Services under these programs are developed and implemented with advisement from the populations and facilities to be served
- 4) STLS with the advice and consent of the Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC) and the 3 state correctional facilities has developed the following guidelines:
 - services funded by these programs will be offered to all System residents in all libraries and all facilities
 - wherever possible, STLS will take an “expansive” approach in making services as widely available to as many System area residents as possible
- 5) **When fully funded, the three categories of Outreach state aid to STLS** total approximately \$111,000/year; in 2014 STLS received approximately \$95,324.

	Full funding	Received 2014
Outreach	\$80,209	\$67,994
Corrections	\$28,092	\$23,814
Jails	\$ 3,527	\$ 3,516

Coordinated Outreach Services Program

Under New York State Education Law, §273 (1) (h) (1), and Commissioner's Regulations §90.3, Public Library Systems provide Coordinated Outreach Library Services directly and through their member libraries to New Yorkers who are most in need and who often are not regular library users.

Program Basics

I. Each System provides service to all or some of the following **target populations**:

- Blind/Physically Disabled
- Aged
- Developmentally or learning disabled

- Institutionalized
- Members of ethnic/minority groups in need of special services
- Educationally Disadvantaged
- Unemployed/Underemployed
- Geographically isolated

II. Each System must employ at least one full-time, certified librarian with expertise in providing public library outreach service.

III. Each System maintains a **Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Group** which meets at least twice a year, includes 5-11 members, includes members of the target population groups and agencies who work with these groups within the system's service area, and one director of a member library. Council members are to serve three-year terms

Each public library system receives **Coordinated Outreach State Aid**: \$43,000 plus \$.13 per capita population annually.

State Aid for Services to State Correctional Facility Libraries

Under New York State Education Law, §285 (1); Commissioner's Regulations §90.14, seventeen of the 23 public library systems receive state correctional facility aid.

Program Basics

I. Each System must meet with state correctional facility General Library librarians annually to negotiate a plan to make System library resources available to the facilities general population. The plan must include:

- the identification of the eligible State correctional facility libraries in the system area, and the reasons given by any such facility which elects not to participate
- the identification of system personnel involved in negotiating the plan of service with participating correctional facility libraries and of the personnel responsible for implementation of such plan, including any consultant services to be provided
- a description of how the public library system resources will be made available for the educational, cultural and recreational needs of the inmates
- an agreement on procedures to recover or replace missing or damaged materials loaned to a participating facility library

Each public library system receives **State Aid for Services to State Correctional Facilities**: \$9.25 per inmate based on population in each correctional facility in the system's service area as of July 1 of the previous year. The New York State Department of Corrections provides the population figure to Library Development.

County Jail “Interinstitutional” Aid

Under New York State Education Law, §285 (2); Commissioner's Regulations §90.14, provides each system with one or more county jails with an amount based on the population in the jails as of July 1 of the previous year. The New York State Commission of Correction provides the population figure to Library Development. The total statewide aid is set at \$175,000.

Examples of STLS Outreach Services

The following services are offered to STLS member libraries, state and county correctional facilities, and area residential facilities housing coordinated outreach populations. Note that STLS general funds pay for housing these services: building upkeep, heat, lights, etc. State law & Commissioner’s regulations forbid using outreach grant funding to pay for these costs.

- Training of library staff to provide library services to targeted outreach populations. *((Coordinated Outreach Services, State Correctional Facility, and County Jail funding)*
- Build library awareness and connect underserved populations with library services by offering speaker services and presentations at community events. *(Coordinated Outreach Services, State Correctional Facility, and County Jail funding)*
- Consultant services on outreach topics to libraries and on library services to agencies/organizations *(Coordinated Outreach Services, State Correctional Facility, and County Jail funding)*
- Downloadable Audio books and eBooks *(Coordinated Outreach Services)*
- JobLink, a mobile digital literacy and job readiness program, makes digital literacy instruction available through the region’s member libraries and community organizations. *(STLS Operational Funds, Coordinated Outreach Services, State Correctional Facility, and County Jail funding)*
- Outreach Mini-Grants to Libraries *(Coordinated Outreach Services funding)*
- Rotating Collections of large print and audio books *(Coordinated Outreach Services funding)*
- Circulation of themed kits
- Talking Book & Braille Library (TBBL) *(Coordinated Outreach Services funding)*

January 2015