

Spartanburg County Public Libraries awarded State Library Grant for an Outreach Services Vehicle

In early September the Spartanburg County Public Libraries was notified that they were awarded funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant through the South Carolina State Library.

This grant is a part of larger ARPA funding that was given directly to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to help Libraries nationwide. IMLS decided to let each State Library determine the best way to allocate those funds. The South Carolina State Library decided to equally divide the amount between all 46 counties in the State of South Carolina. This grant is a onetime funding opportunity up to \$30,000 per county. The purpose of this American Rescue Plan Act grant funding is to be used to help meet community needs through equitable approaches. The Spartanburg County Public Libraries determined that our best use of this funding would be the purchase of an outreach services vehicle for Spartanburg County residents in rural and underserved areas of the county.

This outreach services vehicle will help to fulfill the Library Strategic Plan to “address community needs and interest through inclusive programs that engage, educate, and entertain.” This van will directly address the libraries’ programming goal to, “Increase programs designed to meet the needs of underserved populations and non-English speaking residents.”

Outreach Initiatives will include rural community events, local festivals, and community outreach to the underserved and non-English Speaking areas of Spartanburg County: areas that are not currently being served by our permanent library locations. Several key communities and events around the county have already been identified as outreach targets and will serve as the initial locations for outreach services. The plan will be to continually assess and identify more outreach service locations.

The goal is to use this vehicle as a means of forging a connection to rural and underserved communities, establishing the library system as a trusted resource, so as to better identify ways we can connect and serve. An outreach vehicle will provide library staff the necessary means to transport materials and equipment needed for events and programming to rural and underserved areas throughout Spartanburg County.

The mission of the Spartanburg County Public Libraries is to inspire people to pursue lifelong learning for a thriving Spartanburg County.