



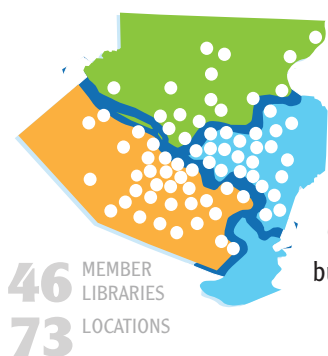
Allegheny County
**Library
Association**
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

2018 Impact Report



The role of libraries in our communities

Now more than ever, our community libraries are providing residents with invaluable services in education and community enhancement. In addition to offering books and resources, the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) through its network of 46 libraries and 73 locations, presents a range of experiences and opportunities for all members of our community.



Children can access kindergarten readiness and curriculum support classes, while teens can learn to become creators and experimenters. Adults benefit from an array of specialized programs, including parent and caregiver education, workforce development, computer training, job assistance and small business development support.

Few organizations within the community offer a place where residents of all walks of life can come together. Libraries provide a unique and safe place where one will find individuals from across the socio-economic spectrum and a diverse multi-ethnic population, which truly represents Allegheny County.

Allegheny County is an exceptional place to live and work, and libraries offer residents countless benefits to improve lives and strengthen communities by:

- Welcoming people with gathering places and meeting space,
- Connecting people and ideas,
- Enriching lives through personal learning and entertainment,
- Presenting current and vital consumer health information, and
- Providing critical government reports and resources.

Libraries will continue to evolve and respond to the changing needs of residents. ACLA and its member libraries are proud to continue to play an integral role in the community.



Supporting our community assets

Allegheny County libraries play a significant role in improving the quality of life throughout our communities. Listed below is a breakdown of ACLA's revenues, along with investments in supporting high-quality services and resources.

Revenue

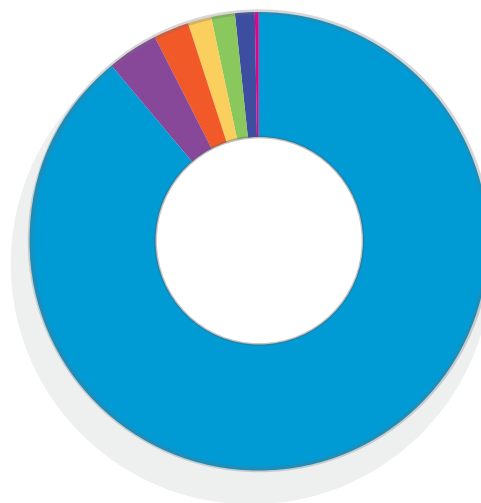
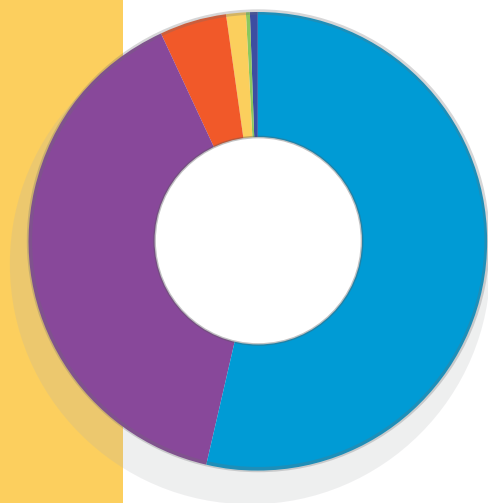
(in \$1,000)

- **Allegheny County Regional Asset District**
\$6,696
- **Pensylvania State Susbidy**
\$4,904
- **Grants**
\$609
- **Earned Revenue**
\$150
- **Direct Contributions**
\$63
- **Local Government**
\$38

Commitments/Investments

(in \$1,000)

- **Distributions to Libraries (Programs/Services)**
\$10,924
- **Mobile Library Services**
\$466
- **Systems Services**
\$288
- **Administration**
\$205
- **Youth Services**
\$196
- **Accounting Services**
\$168
- **Fundraising**
\$34



Partnering for impact

ACLA received more than \$700,000 in grants to offer and support library programs and services throughout the County.

Anonymous Foundation
\$50,000.00

Financial management services

PNC National Bank Foundation
\$5,000.00

Youth Services/Picture Book Children's Choice

Laurel Foundation
\$15,000.00

Diversity, equity and inclusion training

Jefferson Regional Foundation
\$100,000.00

South Hills Libraries Community Engagement Project

The Jack Buncher Foundation
\$157,261.00

Love Your Library matching funds

The Jack Buncher Foundation
\$75,000.00

Tomorrow's Leaders Need Libraries Today Fund

The Jack Buncher Foundation
\$180,000.00

Local library grants (\$4,000 each)

Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation
\$25,000.00

Mobile Library Services

Legislative Grant
\$100,000.00

Kindergarten Readiness

Remake Learning
\$5,000.00

STEM/Maker

Youth services

The Allegheny County Library Association and its member libraries serve a critical role for children and families throughout the County. ACLA has developed resources and best practices for outreach and early education in areas such as STEM & Maker programming, kindergarten readiness classes, and after school and summer learning. Below is a sampling of ACLA's youth service focus throughout the year.

Picture Book Children's Choice Awards

Libraries in Allegheny County introduce thousands of children to new and quality literature each year through the Picture Book Children's Choice Awards provided by the Allegheny County Library Association.

The Picture Book Children's Choice Awards, created by the Youth Services Advisory Committee, reaches students in kindergarten-second grade, many of whom have never interacted with a public library. Librarians engage students through outreach visits at the

Last year **39 libraries** participated in Picture Books Children's Choice, visiting nearly **70 schools** across Allegheny County. Throughout the course of the school year, **librarians read to almost 25,000 students.**

The program grows each year as more schools and libraries join in.

local elementary school, introducing them to a set of new books every year.

ACLA provides participating libraries with a set of the books, stickers, bookmarks, a picture book about voting, activity sheets (for the librarian to reference) and take-home sheets. In return, libraries are required to make a least five outreach/in-reach visits (one per book) during the school year, utilizing the materials provided by ACLA.

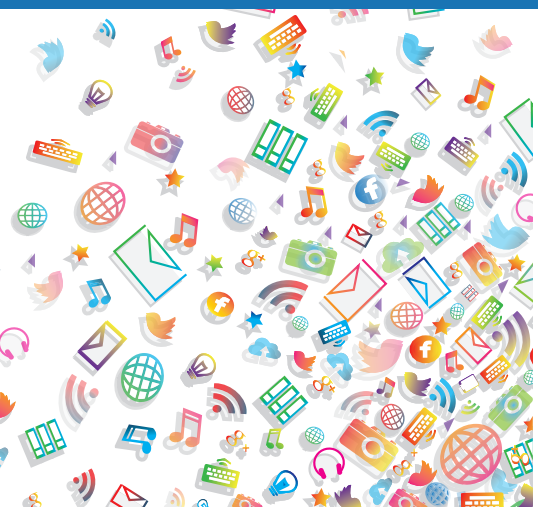
The final event includes a Battle of the Books when students answer questions about the books they've read. The book that receives the most votes is announced with a celebration that includes meeting the author and other fun activities.

Wash & Learn

In 2018, ACLA and several partner organizations celebrated the opening of the Commonwealth's first learning library in a laundromat. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was among the participants at a public



By the numbers



More than **510,997 cardholders** utilized the free access to **46 libraries** and **73 locations** throughout Allegheny County

10,722,836

resources were circulated throughout ACLA's member libraries

Residents utilized more than **57,668,210 minutes of computer time** and **99,741,585 minutes of free Wi-Fi time** in ACLA's libraries

161,274 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN **6,737** SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

community celebration to launch the new “Wash & Learn” program at Sudsy’s Laundromat in South Park. The national program turns wait times between wash cycles into learning opportunities, offering literacy workshops and the ability to take home free books and educational resources.

The “Wash & Learn” program stemmed from a collaboration among ACLA, Libraries Without Borders (LWB), South Park Township Library, and WQED Multimedia. The program aims to meet children where they are, waiting at the laundromat with their families, and addressing the “summer slide” with literacy opportunities.

The space offers laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots, along with shelves of books that customers can read on site or take home.

ACLA is opening a second “Wash & Learn” site in McKeesport in 2019 with the Carnegie Library of McKeesport, LWB, WQED and Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

American Girl® Lending Library

The Allegheny County Library Association has experienced an overwhelming response to its American Girl® Doll Lending Library since the program’s inception in 2015. The lending library was created to promote literacy, history and civic engagement while allowing children to utilize their imagination. The collection is housed at 14 libraries across the county and currently includes 87 dolls. However, children can request and check out the doll kits from any library in the county.



ACLA has witnessed firsthand the impact of the program with written responses from children who have signed out the dolls and used the journals included in the kits. Sophia, age 8 had this to say about her American Doll

“I loved Rebecca because all of my friends have American Girl® dolls and I’m the only one who doesn’t...” “...the doll made me feel like I now kind of fit in...”

Each doll kit contains the doll with accompanying outfit; a bed, pillow, and blanket; a corresponding book; hairbrush; journal; letter to the child; and a letter to the parent/guardian. The kit also contains a brochure, prepared specially for this project by the Heinz History Center, describing what Pittsburgh was like in the doll’s time period.

*The Lending Library is not affiliated with the American Girl® brand.



Accommodating all members of our community

Allegheny County libraries have always been known to accommodate the needs of its guests, regardless of their abilities. To assist with many of these needs, some of ACLA’s member libraries are going above and beyond by offering:

- Therapy/support animals and adaptive/sensory programs for children;
- Closed captioning/subtitles with regular movie screenings;
- Assistive listening devices;
- ASL interpreters at programs;
- Translation services; and
- Large type keyboards.

All libraries offer JAWS screen magnification software on their PCs, large print materials, audio and mp3 recordings and make referrals to the Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.



The love keeps coming!

The Allegheny County Library Association's and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's third annual **"Love Your Library" campaign raised more than \$660,000 during the month of September, a 5% increase over 2017. The Jack Buncher Foundation provided \$157,261 in matching funds. Every library in Allegheny County received approximately 23 cents on the dollar from the matching pool to support their general operations.**

Donations and matching funds will be used to provide essential library services, improve facilities and offer educational programs for children and adults.

Since its inception, **Allegheny County's 'Love Your Library' campaign has raised more than \$2.2 million for local libraries**, an incredible testament to how much Allegheny County residents love their libraries.

LOVE YOUR
LIBRARY 

Putting faces to an organization



Residents of all walks of life throughout Allegheny County rely on libraries as places of imagination and inspiration. Libraries are open to everyone and provide a place to relax, to get help with homework, to improve workforce skills, to access the internet, or simply share a smile. In short - libraries are for the people.

ACLA has recently launched its *Faces of the Library* campaign - a story portal on the non-profit's website (www.aclalibraries.org/faces) where individuals can share their stories of why their library is important to them and their community.

Everybody knows libraries are filled with stories, but the most important ones are those created within them. Here is one such example.

I was never a strong student. I read my first book at the age of 21. It was Native Son by Richard Wright. I really identified with the main character "Bigger Thomas". I read the book in one sitting (8 hours), then got up, and re-registered for college. I had prior quit because of the demands of school. I went on for my BS in Behavioral Science, MBA in Marketing/Economics and currently working on my PhD. in Educational Leadership. The library will always be my man cave.

*James Harris,
Braddock Carnegie Library*

Building better communities with partners

ACLA has a strong network of organizations that help us provide essential programs and services to the residents of Allegheny County. We value these relationships and appreciate their support and efforts in building better communities.

Allegheny County
Complete Count Committee
Allegheny County
Department of Human Services
Allegheny County
Health Department
Allegheny County Parks
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
All of Us
Area Agency on Aging
BigBurgh
Carnegie Science Center

ACLA promoting civic engagement

2018 found ACLA libraries focused on civic literacy and community engagement work. Working with community partners, libraries developed action plans in response to locally identified challenges

ACLA, along with the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. participated in National Voter Registration Day to help educate citizens about voting registration and related matters. Library staff and League volunteers helped register new voters, update registrations, provide absentee ballot forms and confirm polling places.

ACLA will be launching other civic literacy and engagement activities in 2019.



Taking service to the people

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Common Sense Media
Gateway to the Arts
Holocaust Center
Jefferson Regional Collaborative
KDKA
League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh
Libraries Without Borders
Literacy Pittsburgh
Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium
National Library of Medicine
Nonprofit VOTE
Oasis Connections
Pittsburgh Marathon
Pittsburgh Mom's Blog
Pittsburgh Pirates
Pittsburgh Riverhounds
Remake Learning
Trying Together
United Way
WQED/PBS Kids
YMCA



In 2018, ACLA Mobile Library Services' fleet traveled 16,367 miles, conducted 1,140 visits at 99 locations in 47 separate municipalities.

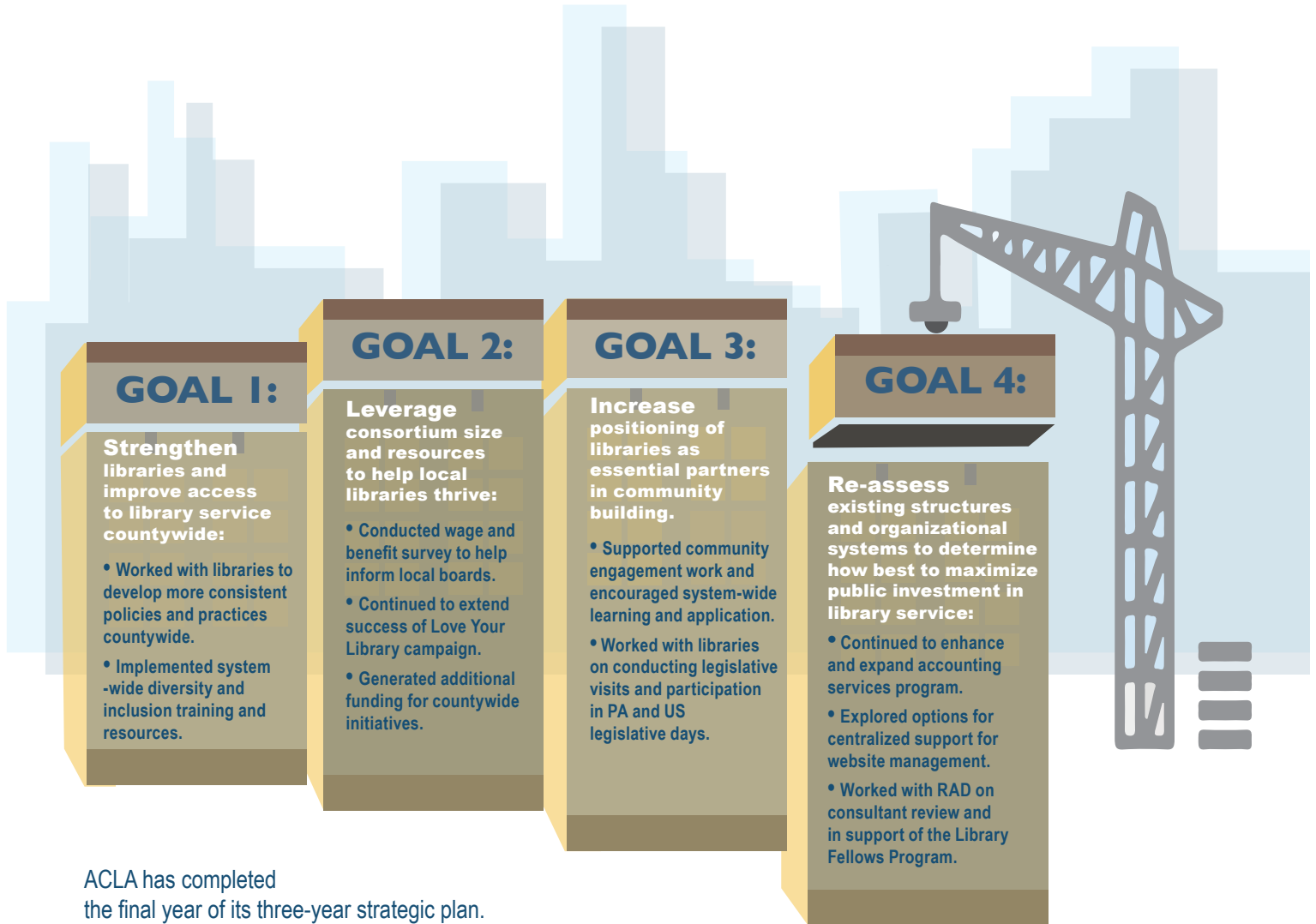
ACLA continues to find ways to reach as many Allegheny County residents as possible – even if that means taking service to them.

Allegheny County's bookmobile program has been in operation since 1952 and consists of three specially equipped vehicles. The bookmobiles visit locations throughout the County each day serving seniors, preschools and various local communities.

Many of ACLA's member libraries offer additional options for those who cannot visit their local library including:

- Homebound delivery services,
- Books by mail,
- Outreach to assisted living facilities or senior centers, and
- Books on Wheels – a combined effort with Meals on Wheels.

Several ACLA libraries also offer in-house programming specific to those with integration/sensory challenges and/or physical challenges.



ACLA has completed the final year of its three-year strategic plan. Above is a summary of some key accomplishments in 2018.

**2018 Allegheny County
Library Association Board of Directors:**

Sally Coyne, *President*
East Region Representative

Jack Murtagh, *Vice President*
North Region Representative

Rich Fuller, *Treasurer*
At-Large Representative

Christine McIntosh, *Secretary*
Librarians Advisory Council
Representative

Tom Baker
At-Large Representative

Phyllis Comer
West Region Representative

Pamela Golden
ARAD Representative

Kristen McMahon
Central Region Representative

Tracy Soska
South Region Representative

Marilyn Jenkins
Executive Director

