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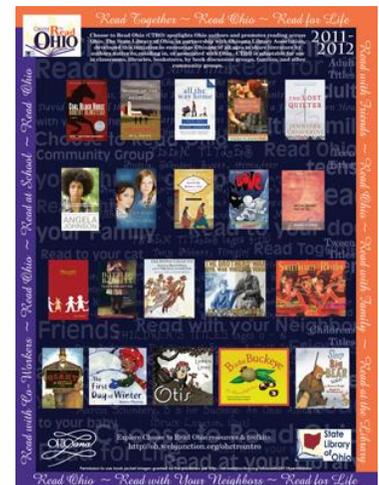
## State Library Special LSTA Grants

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In 2009, the State Library LSTA office introduced a new type of LSTA program, the "Special Grant." Special Grant cycles are initiated when a unique or specific need has been identified in the library community which can be addressed through LSTA dollars. There is always a very specific limit on the amount of federal funds which can be requested as well as very specific items for which the funds can be used. In the two years that special grants have been in existence, they have proved popular. Many libraries which, for a variety of reasons, would never have requested LSTA funding, have applied for and received a grant.



[Choose to Read Ohio](#) (CTRO) is a statewide initiative supporting Ohio authors and encouraging all Ohioans to read, share, and enjoy books together. Any library, community, class, family, or other group can participate by simply selecting and sharing a CTRO book. More elaborate CTRO programs can be built for the price of some creativity and good partnerships. However, the State Library has made an LSTA special grant opportunity available for libraries to produce a larger-scale CTRO community event or project than local resources might allow. In 2011, two rounds of Choose to Read Ohio grants were awarded. Although still classified as a special grant, the CTRO grant program is becoming an ongoing grant program. CTRO projects have, since 2010, had an implementation period of January 1 – September 30. In 2011, a second round of CTRO grants, with an implementation period of July 1 – December 31, were awarded. This second round was the result of requests by librarians who wanted to be able to have programming in the fall. Seven public and school libraries completed their CTRO projects on September 30 and an additional five projects will conclude December 31.



The CTRO grant recipients developed highly creative, high-impact programming featuring Ohio literature. The Mary L. Cook Public Library CTRO project exemplified the breadth of programming and community involvement that a library can use with CTRO. The project served as the Mary L. Cook Public Library's programming inspiration for 2011 and a focus on Civil War programming. To coincide with the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the library chose the titles *The Lost Quilter*, *Coal Black Horse*, and *The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse*. The use of these titles allowed the library to focus programming on all age groups, with subjects appealing to both male and female patrons. The Wood County District Public Library (WCDPL) hosted a day long visit by Will Hillenbrand, illustrator of *Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep*. Mr. Hillenbrand presented a lecture at Bowling Green State University for pre-service teachers at the Child Development Center, talked at an elementary school assembly for K-3rd graders, and hosted an evening event at the public library. Through this CTRO project, the WCDPL has developed more meaningful and enthusiastic relationships with the Child Development Center, local preschools, the elementary school, teachers and parents. The library has continued friendly contact and sharing with Will Hillenbrand. The Guernsey County District Public Library used CTRO as a vehicle to work with and better serve homeschooled students in the community and the Ohio School for the Deaf is translating some of the children's CTRO titles into American Sign Language for presentations via videoconferencing.

In August 2011, the State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Library Council, sponsored five Star Power Workshops around the state. These workshops, featuring Saroj Ghoting, introduced 297 librarians to the PLA/ALSC's early literacy outreach toolkit, Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library® 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (ECRR2). In support of the statewide Ohio Ready to Read initiative, LSTA funding was made available to allow public libraries to purchase ECRR2 kits for use in their early literacy programming. Eighteen public libraries took advantage of this opportunity and a total of 53 ECRR2 were purchased for their use.

In order to support public libraries' efforts to join an existing Integrated Library System (ILS) consortium, an ongoing special grant program was developed and made available to public libraries. This program is open only to public libraries that are currently on a stand-alone ILS and wish to join an existing consortium that uses a shared catalog. The Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County was the first public library to take advantage of this grant opportunity. The library received funding in April 2011 and is now a member of the SEO Library Consortium. Since then, two additional public libraries have received LSTA funds to join the SEO Library Consortium and one public library received funding to join SearchOhio. This program has engendered much interest around the state and the State Library expects to see several additional proposals in 2012.

The State Library believes that the development of the Special Grant initiatives has been a worthwhile addition to the LSTA program and that the projects awarded to date have benefited libraries and their customers around the state. Both State Library staff and the Board have been pleased at the number of smaller libraries who are receiving funds from these grants. CTRO grants will be available in 2012, using the same cycles as currently posted on the website and the ILS Consortium program will continue with an open-ended application date. Two new Special Grant opportunities are in development and will be announced in 2012, and staff is open to developing additional Special Grant opportunities should a documented need or partnership opportunity arise. For more information about the Special Grant programs, please see [www.library.ohio.gov/lpd/special-grants](http://www.library.ohio.gov/lpd/special-grants) or contact Missy Lodge at [mlodge@library.ohio.gov](mailto:mlodge@library.ohio.gov)