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A brief overview of the  
**Metropolitan Library Service  
Agency (MELSA)** and  
Minnesota Regional Public Library Systems

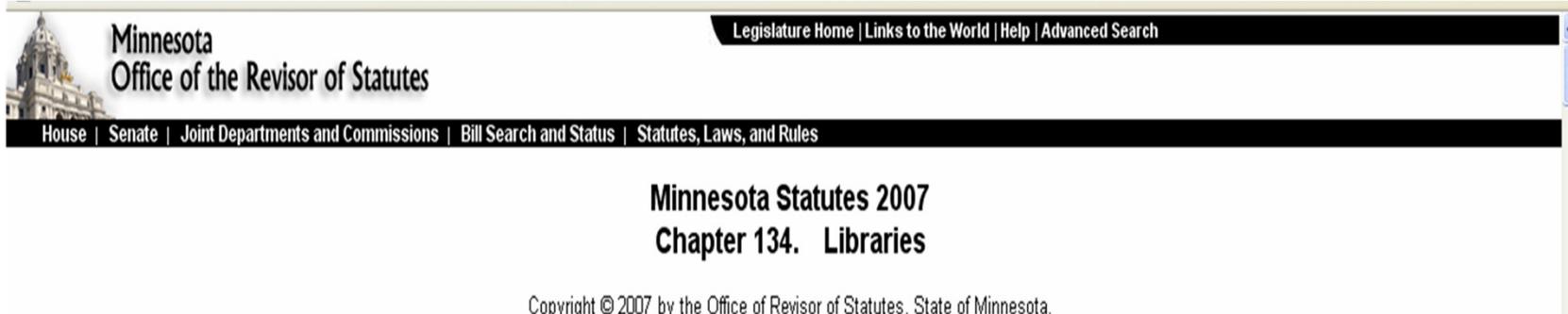
June 6, 2018

Ken Behringer  
MELSA Executive Director

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# Structures for Regional Public Library Systems



Minnesota  
Office of the Revisor of Statutes

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House | Senate | Joint Departments and Commissions | Bill Search and Status | Statutes, Laws, and Rules

Minnesota Statutes 2007  
Chapter 134. Libraries

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134.4, Subd. 3. **Regional designation.** Regional library basic system support grants shall be made only to those regional public library systems officially designated by the **commissioner of education** as the **appropriate agency to strengthen, improve and promote public library services** in the participating areas. The commissioner of education shall **designate no more than one such regional public library system located entirely within any single development region** existing under sections [462.381](#) to [462.398](#) or chapter 473.



# Minnesota Regional Public Library Systems

## Consolidated Systems:

- Northwest
- Kitchigami
- Lake Agassiz
- East Central
- Great River
- Pioneerland

## Federated Systems:

- Arrowhead
- Viking
- MELSA
- Plum Creek
- Traverse des Sioux
- SELCO

### Northwest Regional Library

210 LaBree Ave. N  
P.O. Box 593  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701-0593  
Kristi Hanson, Director  
Phone 218-881-1066  
Fax 218-881-1095  
hansonk@nwrplb.org  
www.nwrplb.org

### Lake Agassiz Regional Library

118 5th St S  
Moorhead, MN 56501  
Liz Lynch, Director  
Phone 218-233-3757 Ext. 127  
Fax 218-233-7558  
lynchl@larl.org  
www.larl.org

### Viking Library System

1915 Fir Avenue West  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Geri Moeller, Director  
Phone 218-739-3286  
Fax 218-739-3287  
gmoeller@viking.lib.mn.us  
www.viking.lib.mn.us

### Pioneerland Library System

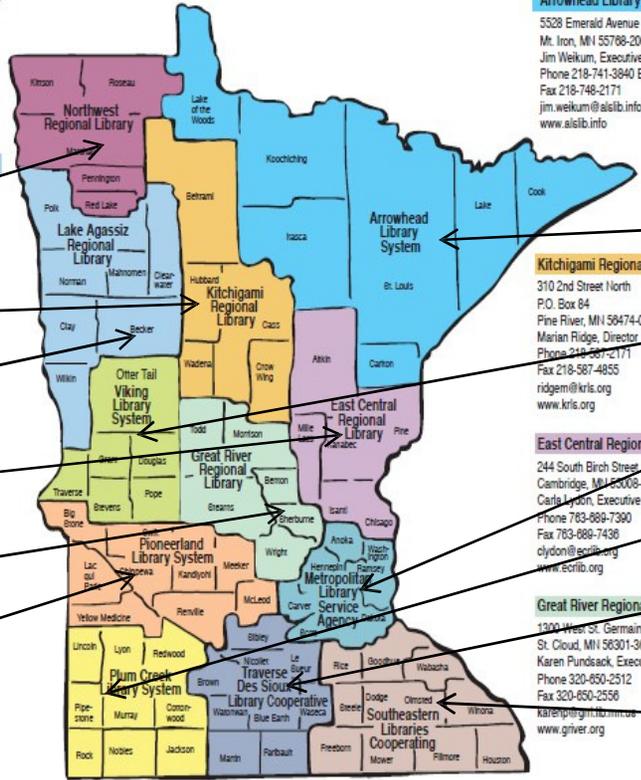
410 5th St. SW  
P.O. Box 327  
Willmar, MN 56201-0327  
Laurie Ortega, Executive Director  
Phone 320-235-8106 Ext.28  
Fax 320-214-0187  
laurie.ortega@pioneerland.lib.mn.us  
www.pioneerland.lib.mn.us

### Plum Creek Library System

290 S. Lake Street  
P.O. Box 897  
Worthington, MN 56187-0897  
Jim Trojanowski, Director  
trojanowski@plumcreeklibrary.net  
Phone 507-376-5803  
Fax 507-376-9244  
www.plumcreeklibrary.org

### State Library Services

Minnesota Department of Education  
1500 Hwy 38 West  
Roseville, MN 55113  
Jennifer Nelson, State Librarian  
Phone 651-582-8791  
Fax 651-582-8752  
jennifer.r.nelson@state.mn.us  
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/else/Lib/index.htm



### Arrowhead Library System

5528 Emerald Avenue  
Mt. Iron, MN 55788-2069  
Jim Weikum, Executive Director  
Phone 218-741-3840 Ext. 230  
Fax 218-748-2171  
jim.weikum@alslib.info  
www.alslib.info

### Kitchigami Regional Library

310 2nd Street North  
P.O. Box 64  
Pine River, MN 56474-0064  
Marian Ridge, Director  
Phone 218-567-2171  
Fax 218-567-4855  
ridgem@krls.org  
www.krls.org

### East Central Regional Library

244 South Birch Street  
Cambridge, MN 56008-1588  
Carla Lydon, Executive Director  
Phone 763-869-7390  
Fax 763-869-7438  
clydon@ecrlib.org  
www.ecrlib.org

### Great River Regional Library

1300 West St. Germain  
St. Cloud, MN 56301-3697  
Karen Pundsack, Executive Director  
Phone 320-650-2512  
Fax 320-650-2558  
karen@grlib.mn.us  
www.griver.org

### Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative

1400 Madison Avenue Suite 822  
Mankato, MN 56002-5488  
Ann Hokanson, Executive Director  
Phone 507-825-8199  
Fax 507-825-4049  
ahokanson@tds.lib.mn.us  
www.tdslib.org

### Southeastern Libraries Cooperating

2800 19th St. NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-0767  
Krista Ross, Executive Director  
Phone 507-288-5513  
Fax 507-288-8897  
kross@selco.info  
www.selco.info

### Metropolitan Library Service Agency

1619 Dayton Ave., Suite 314  
St. Paul, MN 55104-8206  
Ken Behringer, Executive Director  
Phone 651-945-5731  
Fax 651-949-3189  
ken@melisa.org  
www.melisa.org

# State programs managed through the regional public library systems

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- **Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)**
  - \$13,570,000 annually (unchanged since FY 2009)
  - Included in the E-12 Budget – and part of the State’s “Base Budget”
  - Administered through MN Department of Education
  - Divided among 12 regions by statutory formula
- **Arts & Cultural Heritage/Legacy Funds**
  - \$2,500,000 FY 2018
  - Appropriated biennially by Legacy Committee – no base
  - Library funds administered through MN Department of Education
  - Divided among 12 regions by (slightly different) statutory formula
- **Regional Library Telecommunications Aid**
  - \$2,300,000 FY 2018
  - Included in the E-12 Budget – and part of the State’s “Base Budget”
  - Administered through MN Department of Education
  - Linked to Federal E-Rate program to pay for public library telecomm costs



# How are RLBSS dollars divided\*?

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Formula is defined in state statute: MN Stats 134.355

- ▶ **(57.5%) Population by region (using latest State Demographer's Office Estimates)**
- ▶ **(12.5%) Area in Square Miles by region**
- ▶ **(25%) Equalization (based upon county-level Adjusted Net Tax Capacity per capita)**
- ▶ **(5%) Base Grant to each regional system**

\*"The RLBSS Formula" since FY1993

# Why Four RLBSS Factors?

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- ▶ **Base Grant:** Each System has basic operating expenses: administrative personnel, utilities, location costs, insurance, audits, phone etc. [NOTE: Regions other than MELSA also operate ILS catalog/circulation systems]
- ▶ **Population:** Library service is substantially about providing direct public services to people (consolidated systems) or assisting local library systems to serve people better (federated systems)
- ▶ **Area:** Distance affects the costs of providing services to two regions with similar populations (delivery, training, etc.)
- ▶ **Equalization:** Since funding for local library service is property taxed based, equalization is an acknowledgement that tax base resources vary from place to place in the state.

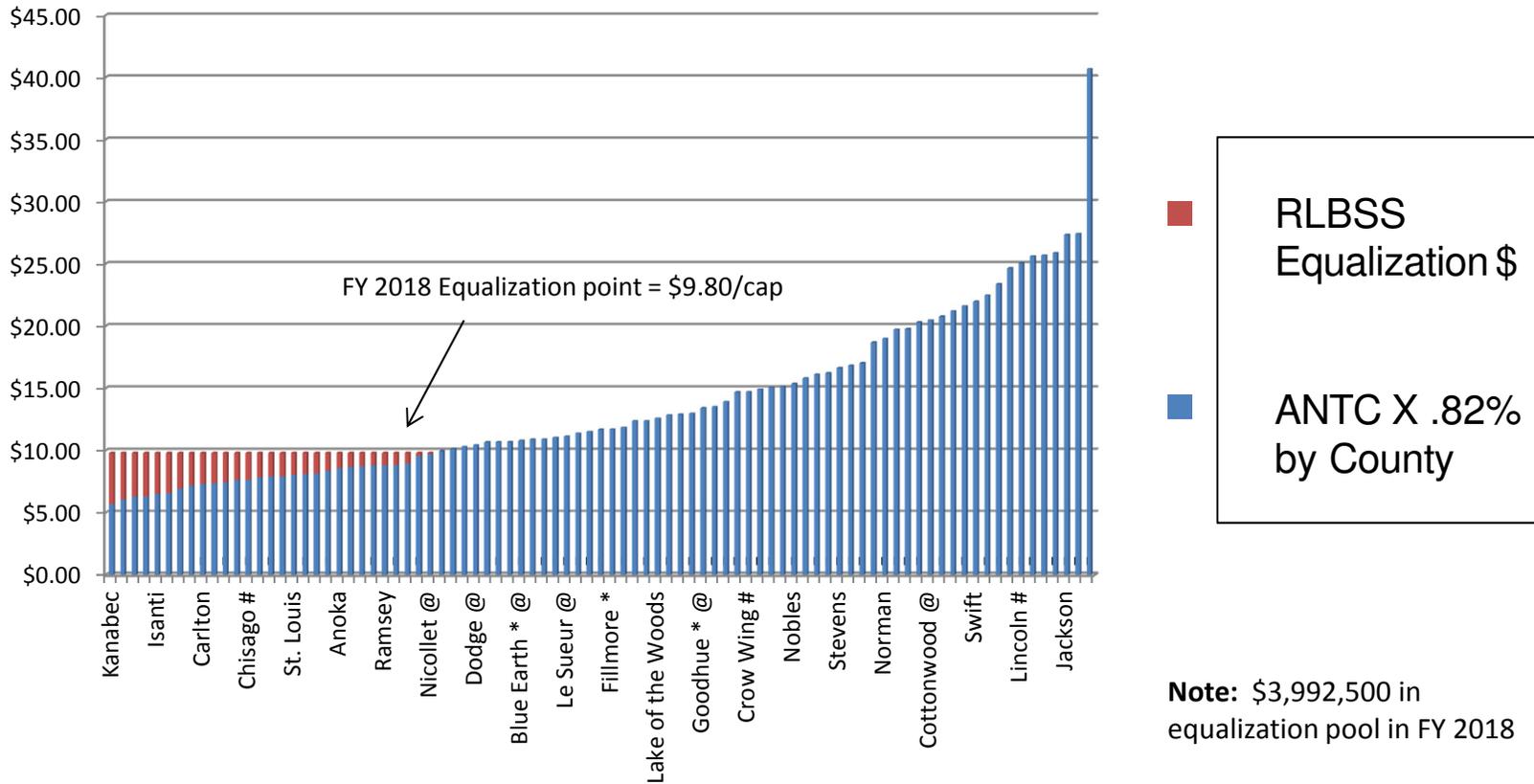


## How does the Equalization factor work?

- MN Department of Revenue provides the Adjusted Net Tax Capacity (ANTC) for each county
- MN Demographers Office provides latest population estimate for each county
- The Adjusted Net Tax Capacity per Capita is calculated. (ANTC divided by population)
- This is multiplied times constant levy for each county (**.82%, the statutory minimum**) to find relative support potential in each county.



# Equalization Compensates for Low Tax Base (until funding runs out)



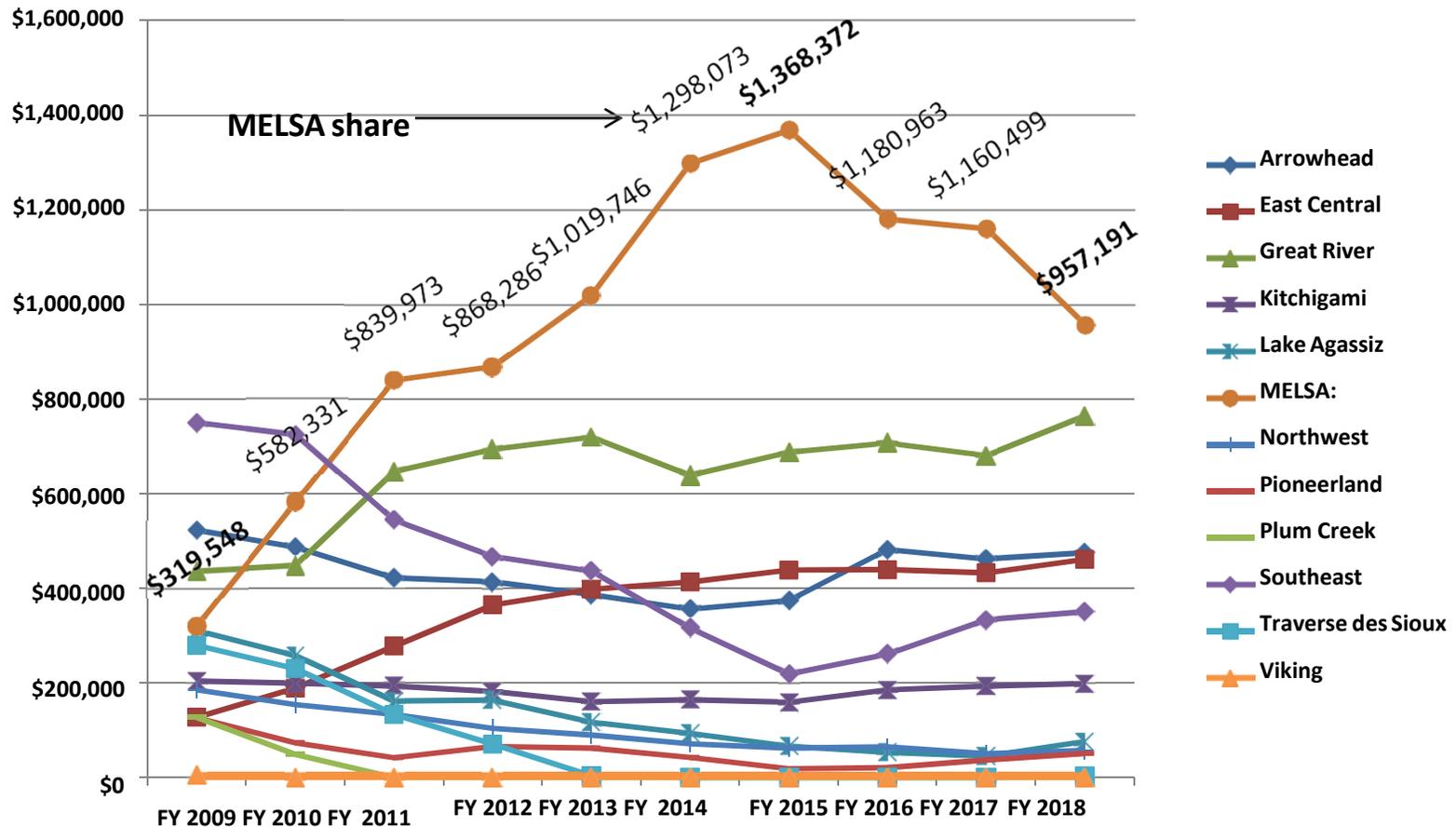
Note: all 87 counties are included in this table though not all are named.

Table shows sample counties



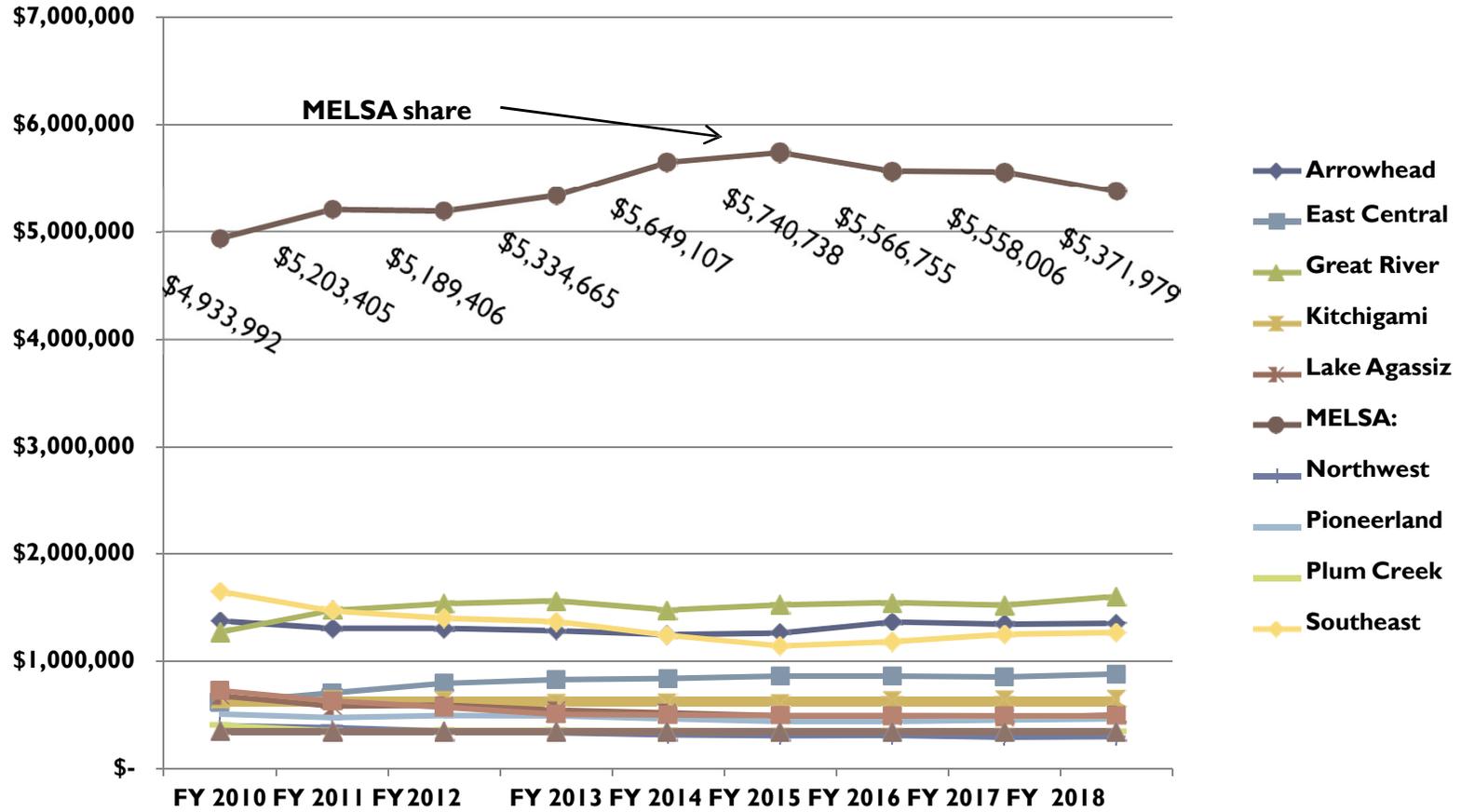
# RLBSS Equalization Shares for MN Regional Public Library Systems:

FY2009 – FY2018



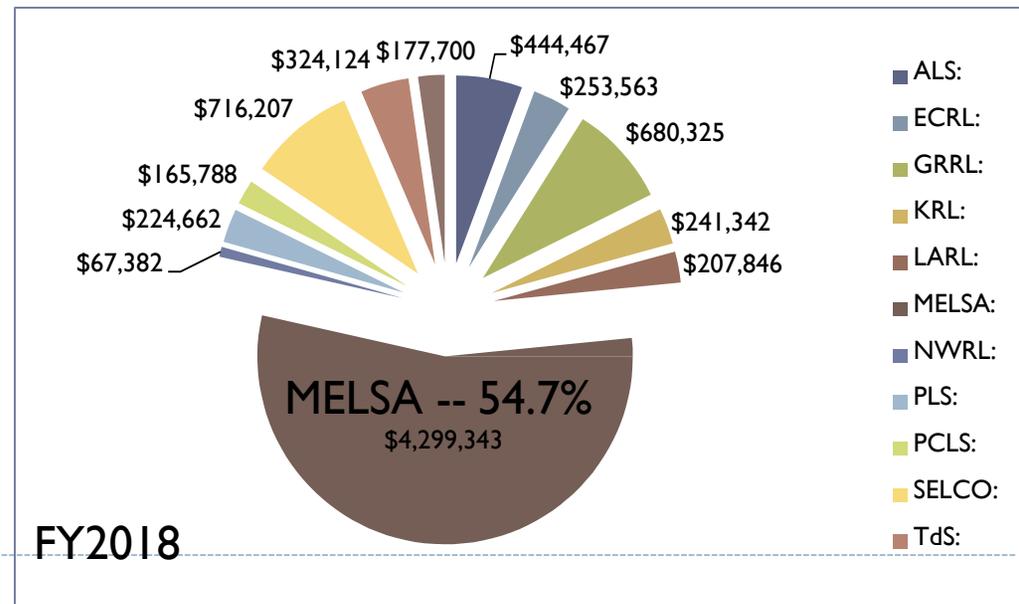
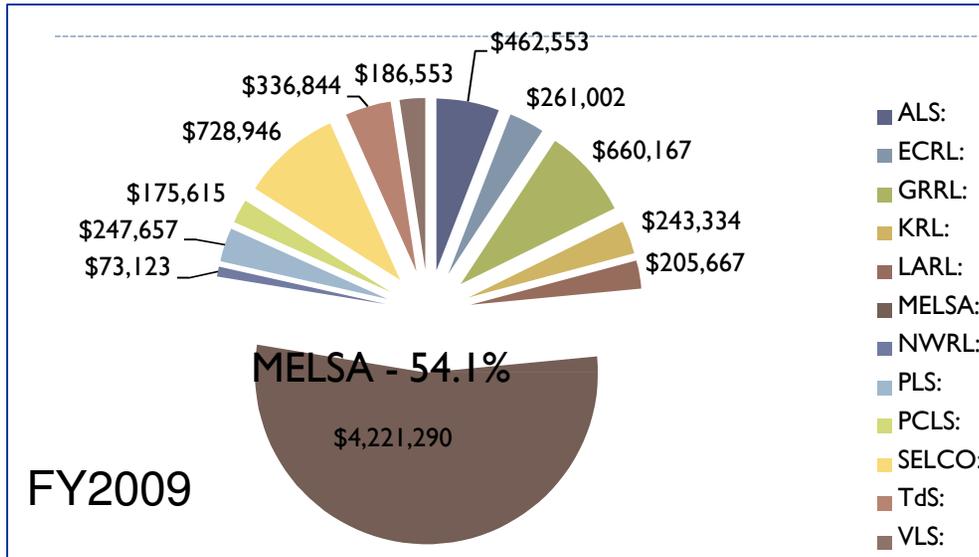
# RLBSS Shares for MN Regional Public Library Systems:

FY2009 – FY2018

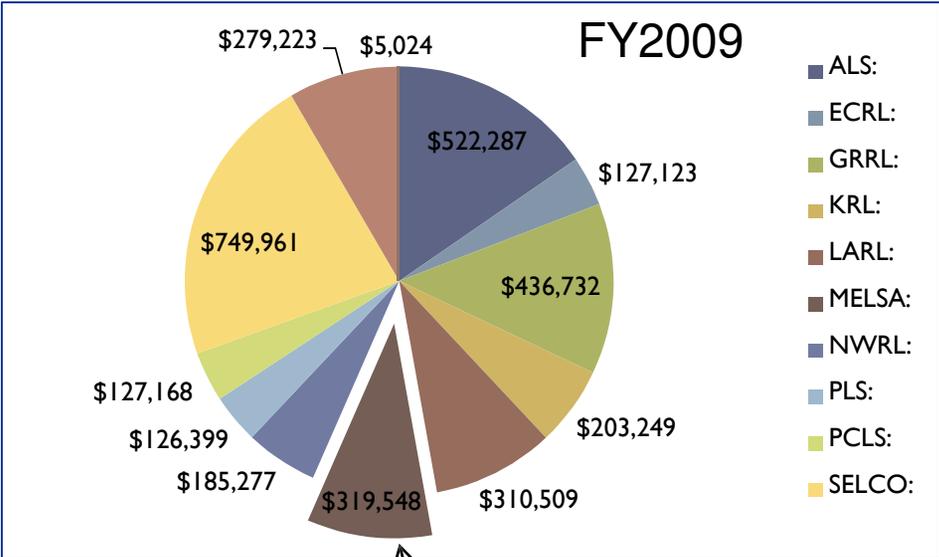


# RLBSS Population shares by region:

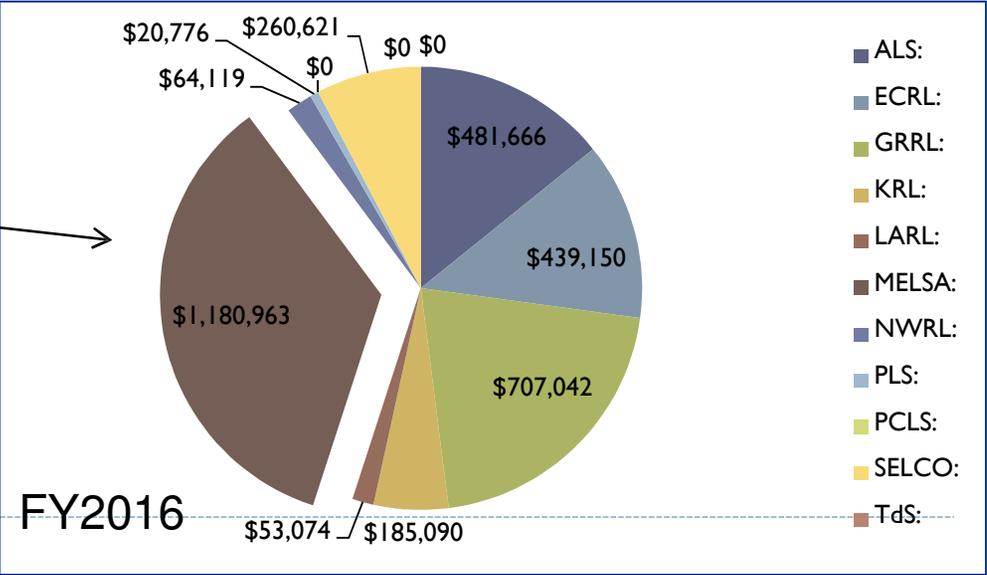
FY2009 and FY2016



# RLBSS Equalization shares by region



MELSA Equalization share

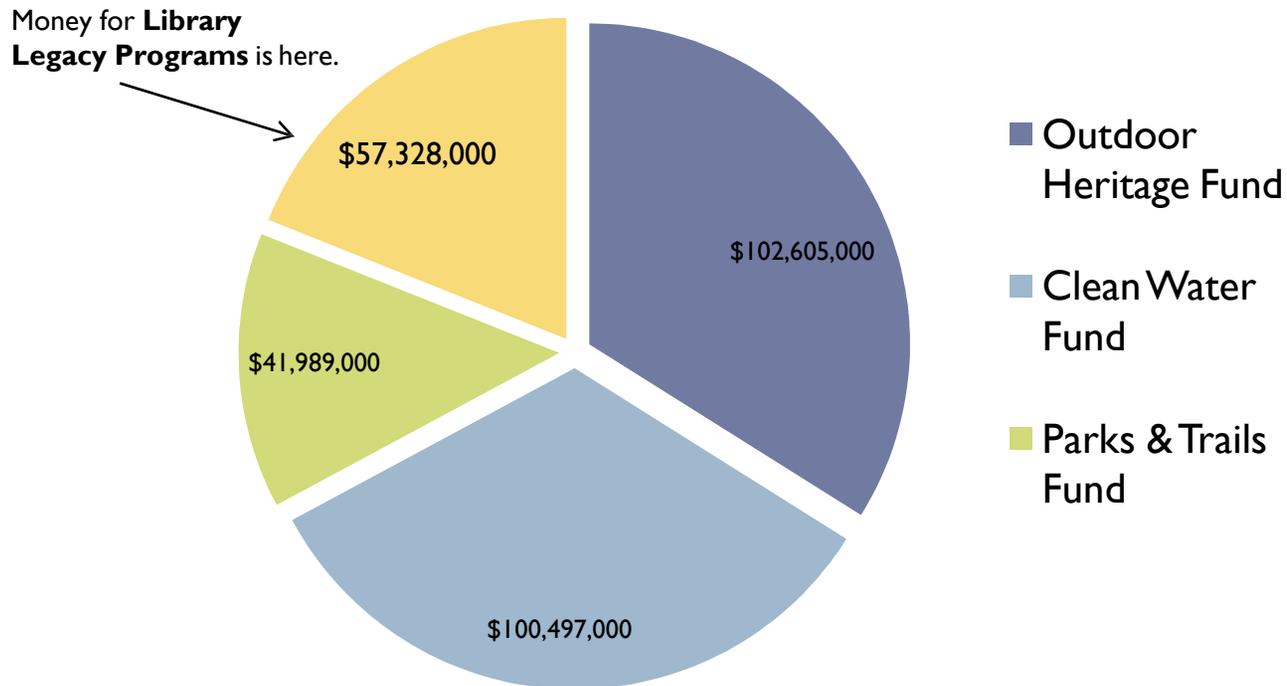


## Quick RLBSS notes....

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- Current funding is \$13,570,000 annually. There has been no increase in funding from the State since FY 2009
- Statutory distribution formula is unchanged since 1993
- Historic agreement among the 12 systems requires unanimity before approaching Legislature with a formula change proposal
- Such a request was made during 2017-2018 session – but no supplemental funding added. The proposal was:
  - if \$3M added to RLBSS, shift 10% from equalization to base; or
  - If \$2M added to RLBSS, shift 7.5% from equalization to base
- Boards of all systems likely to be approached again for unanimous consent on a 2019 legislative proposal

# Legacy Fund Finance Appropriations: FY 2018 = \$302,419,000

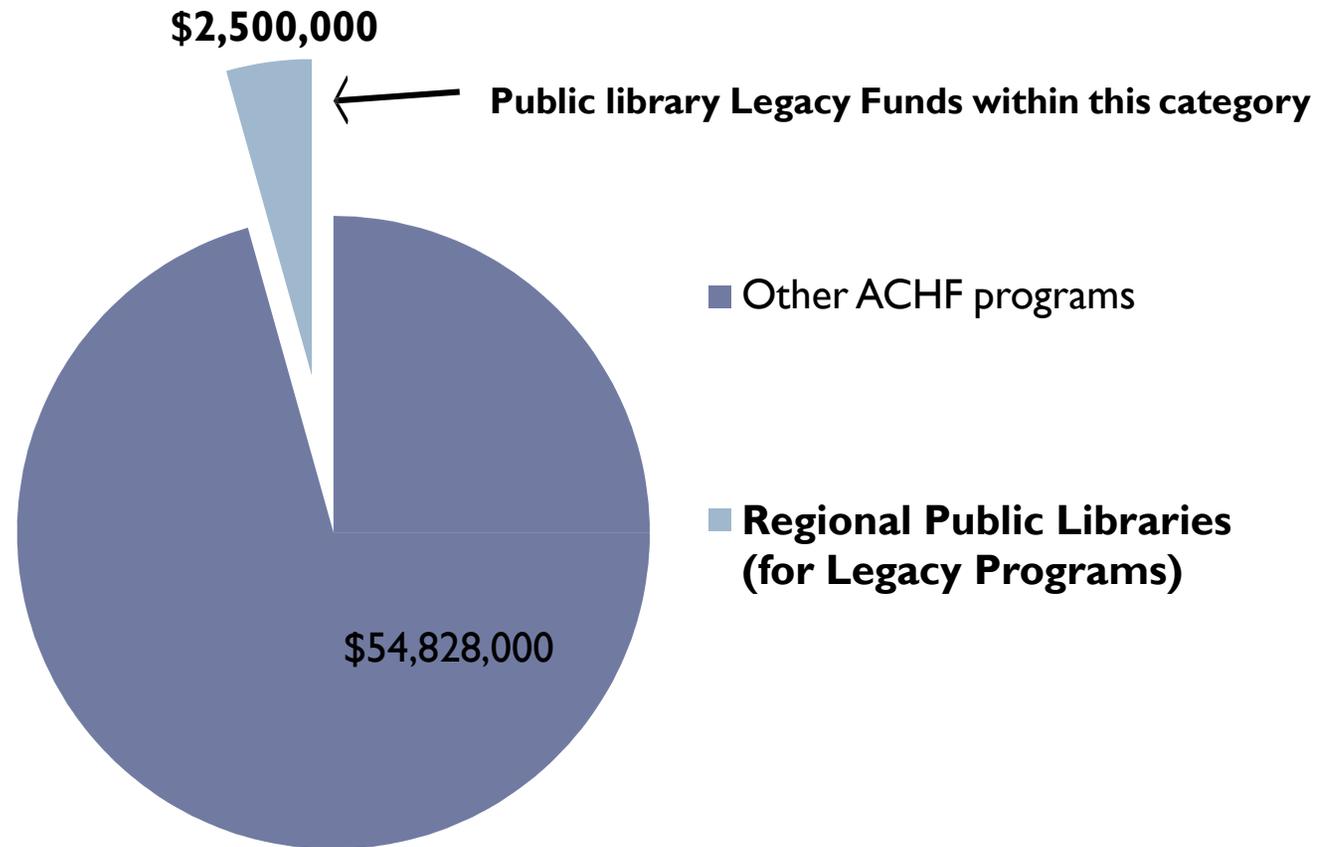


NOTE: Categories together equal \$57,328,000 awarded to Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund



# Legacy Fund Appropriations: FY 2018

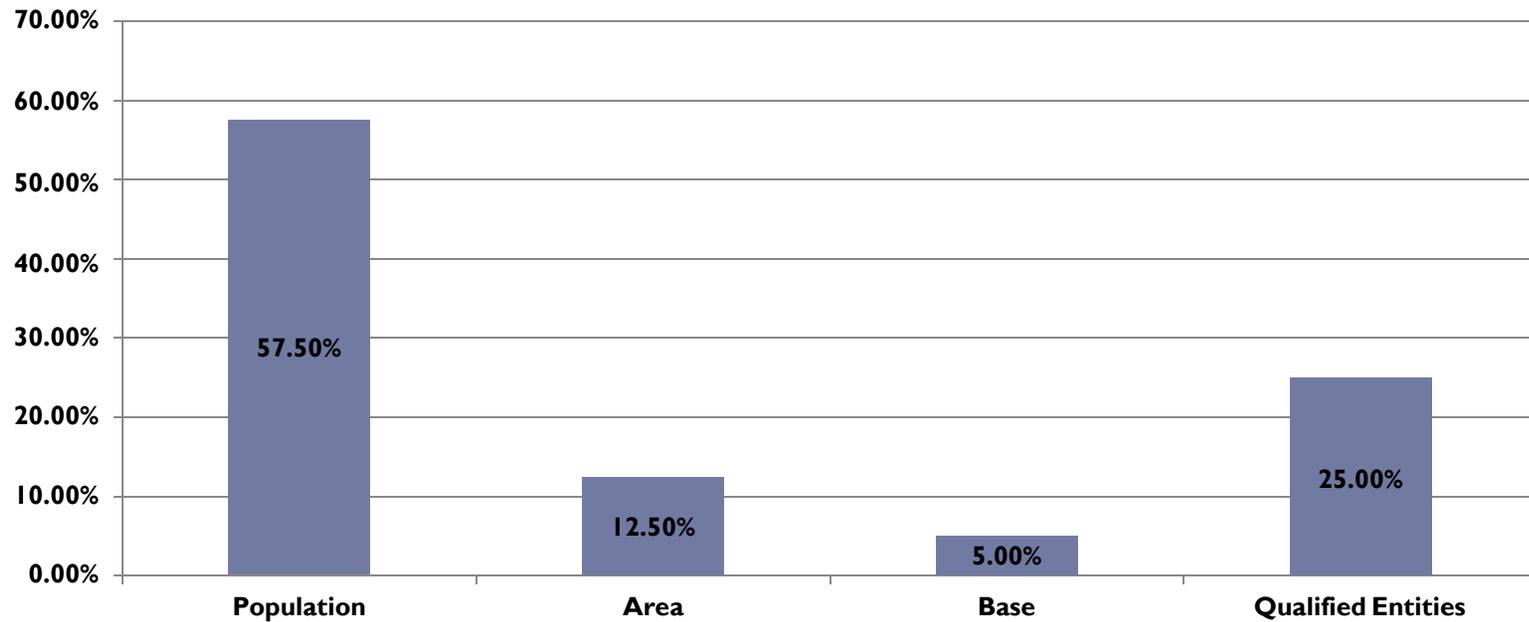
## Distributions under Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund



NOTE: Categories together equal \$57,328,000 awarded to Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund



# Distribution Formula for Regional Public Library Legacy Funds

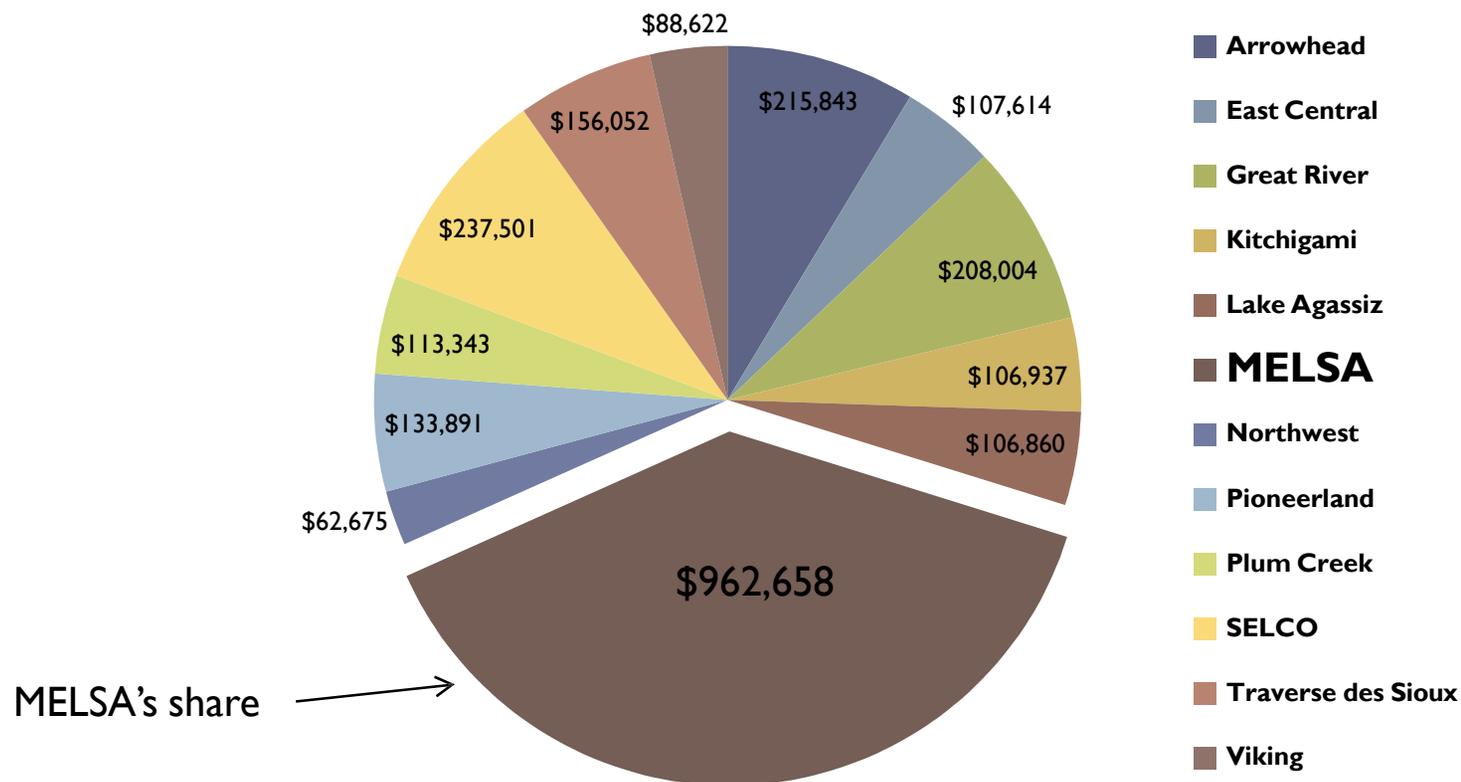


NOTE: "Qualified entities" means the number of public library buildings and bookmobiles in a region



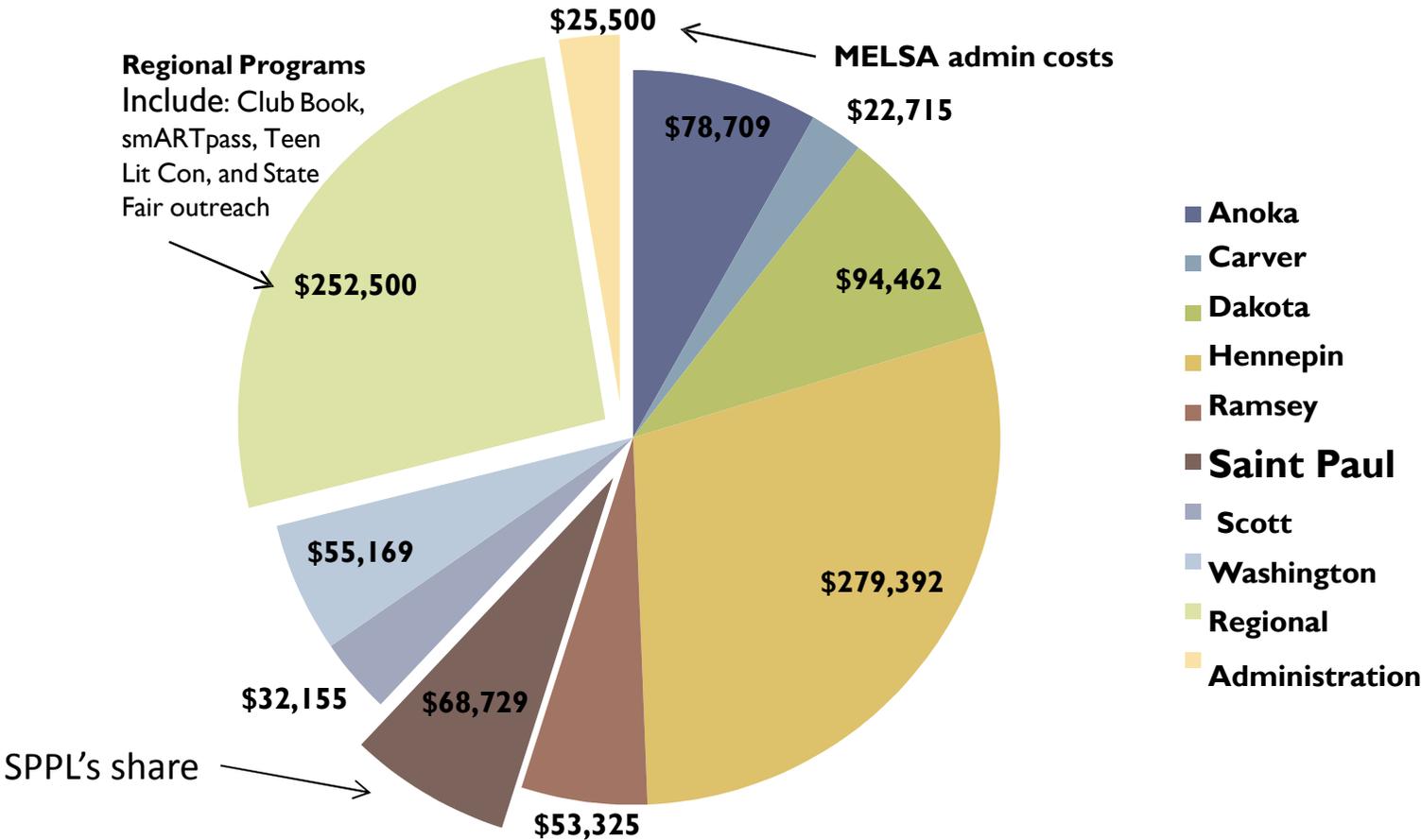
# Library Legacy Fund Allocations: FY 2018

## Distributions under Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund



# MELSA Legacy Fund Allocations: FY 2018

## Budget for Payments to MELSA Member Systems and Regional Programs and Support



**NOTE:** Shares to MELSA member systems are distributed by population

# Quick Legacy Fund notes....

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- Funding stems from the 3/8<sup>ths</sup> percent sales tax approved by Minnesota voters in 2008
- There is no “base budget” allocating funds to recipients
- Funding targets are reset each biennium by legislative action
- Libraries are uniquely positioned to ensure that benefits of this program are delivered to communities throughout the entire state.
- Over 461 public library-related service outlets are available to promote and present Legacy Fund financed programs throughout the state.

# Regional Library Telecommunications Aid

## Things to know:

Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA) is a state program to assist in **paying for the telecommunications costs** of regional public libraries, their member library systems, and branch libraries. This includes public and staff internet charges and communications charges related to operations of the library catalog/circulation system.

- To be eligible, libraries must also apply for support under a similar federal telecommunications support program: **E-Rate**.
- Initial dollars available under both state and federal systems pay for **basic line charges – known as Category One**. Systems cannot receive more than 100% of their actual cost for telecommunications connectivity
- If additional funds are available, a call for **Category Two expenditures (networking and related telecom equipment)** is announced.
- **\$2,300,000** available in RLTA in FY 2018



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**Some comments on MELSA-specific  
initiatives benefitting the  
Saint Paul Public Library**



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Thank you –  
and Questions???

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