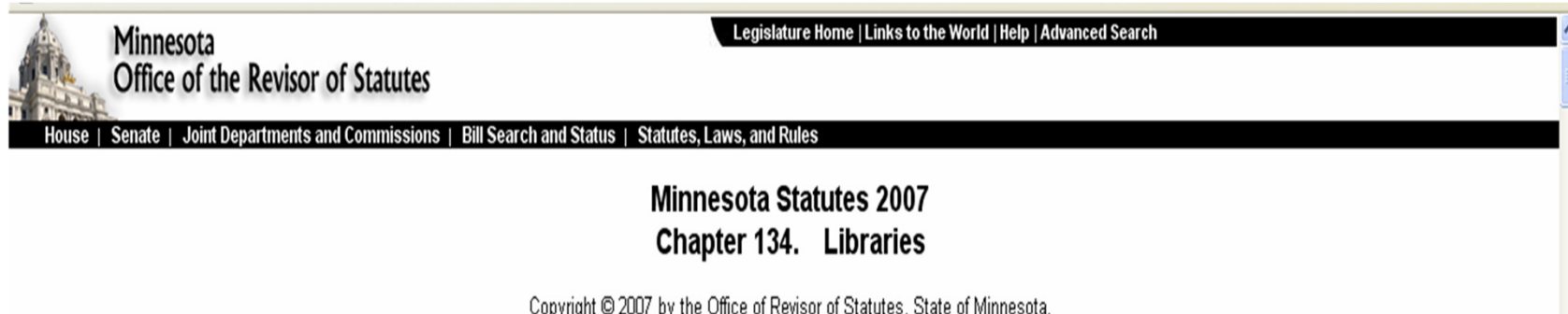

A brief overview of the
**Metropolitan Library Service
Agency (MELSA)** and
Minnesota Regional Public Library Systems

June 6, 2018

Ken Behringer
MELSA Executive Director



Structures for Regional Public Library Systems



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
- LakeAgassiz
- East Central
- Great River
- Pioneerland

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@nwrlib.org
www.nwrlib.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 697
Worthington, MN 56187-0697
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 36 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/roseLib/index.htm

Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative
1400 Madison Avenue Suite 822
Mankato, MN 56002-5488
Ann Hokanson, Executive Director
Phone 507-825-8109
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 651-940-3169
ken@melisa.org
www.melisa.org

Federated Systems:

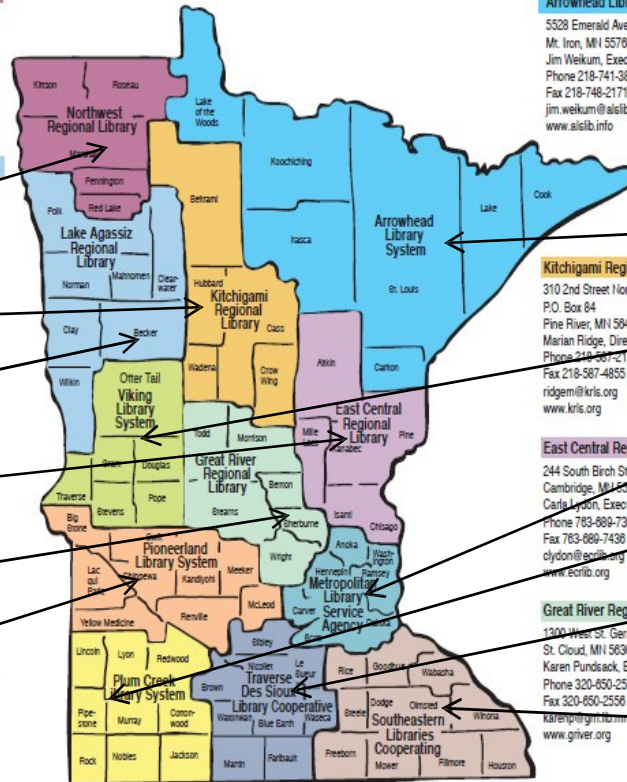
- Arrowhead
- Viking
- MELSA
- Plum Creek
- Traverse des Sioux
- SELCO

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 84
Pine River, MN 56474-0084
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 763-889-7390
Fax 763-889-7438
clydon@ecrlib.org
www.ecrlib.org

Great River Regional Library
1300 West St. Germain
St. Cloud, MN 56301-3897
Karen Pundsack, Executive Director
Phone 320-650-2512
Fax 320-650-2558
karenp@grlib.mn.us
www.grlib.org



State programs managed through the regional public library systems

- **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*?

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?

- ▶ **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.

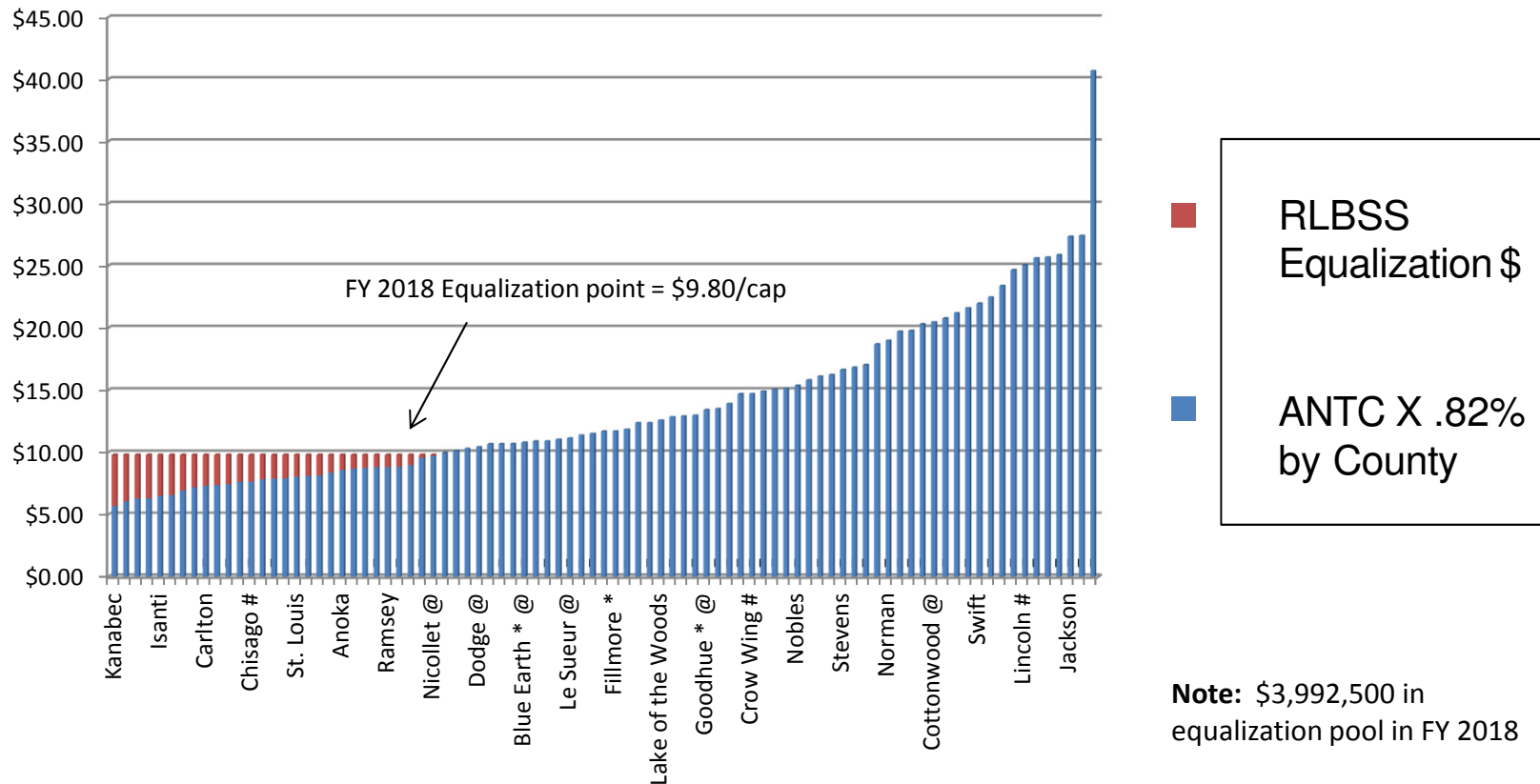


How does the Equalization factor work?

- 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)

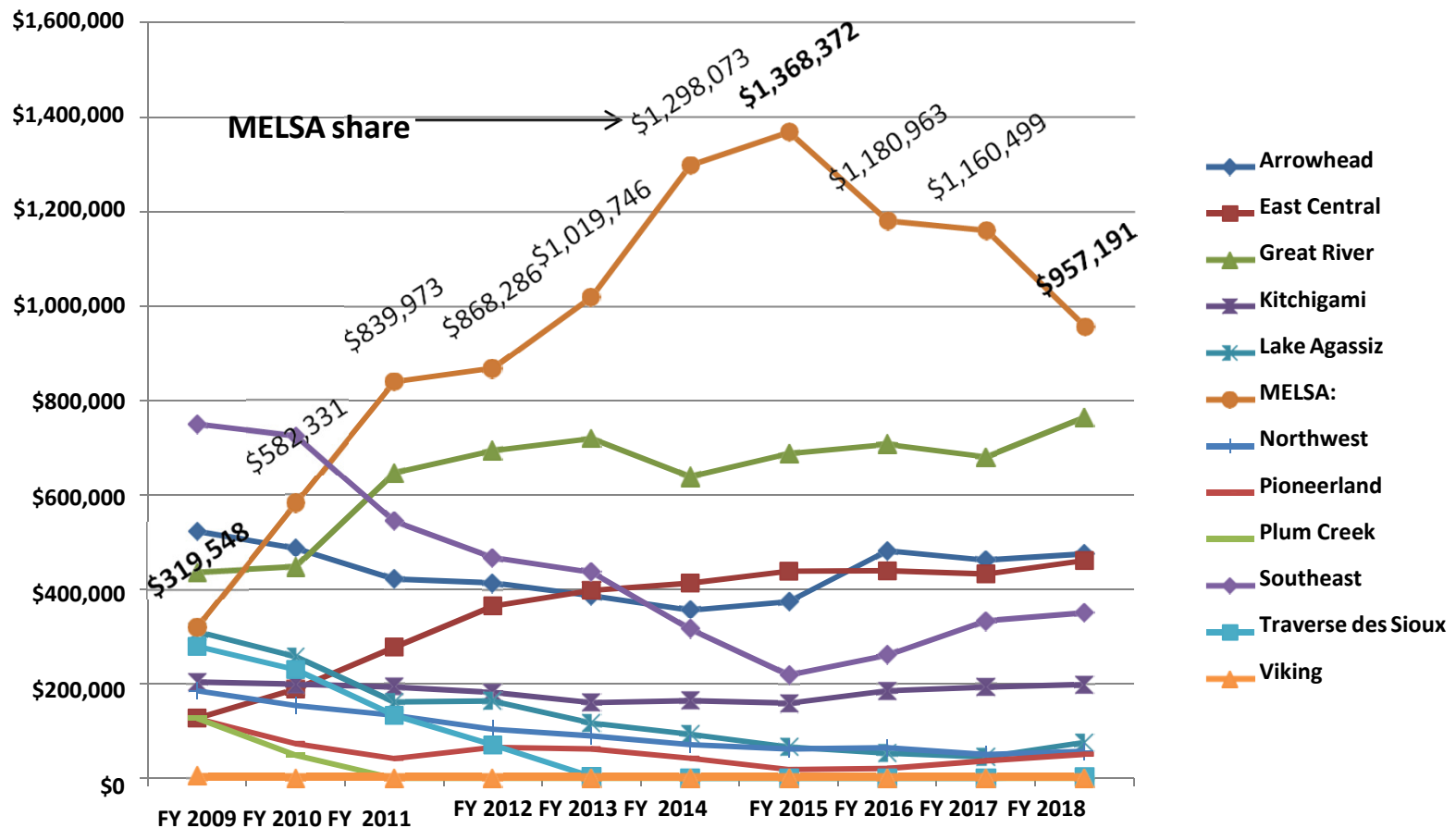


Note: all 87 counties are included in this table though not all are named.

Table shows sample counties

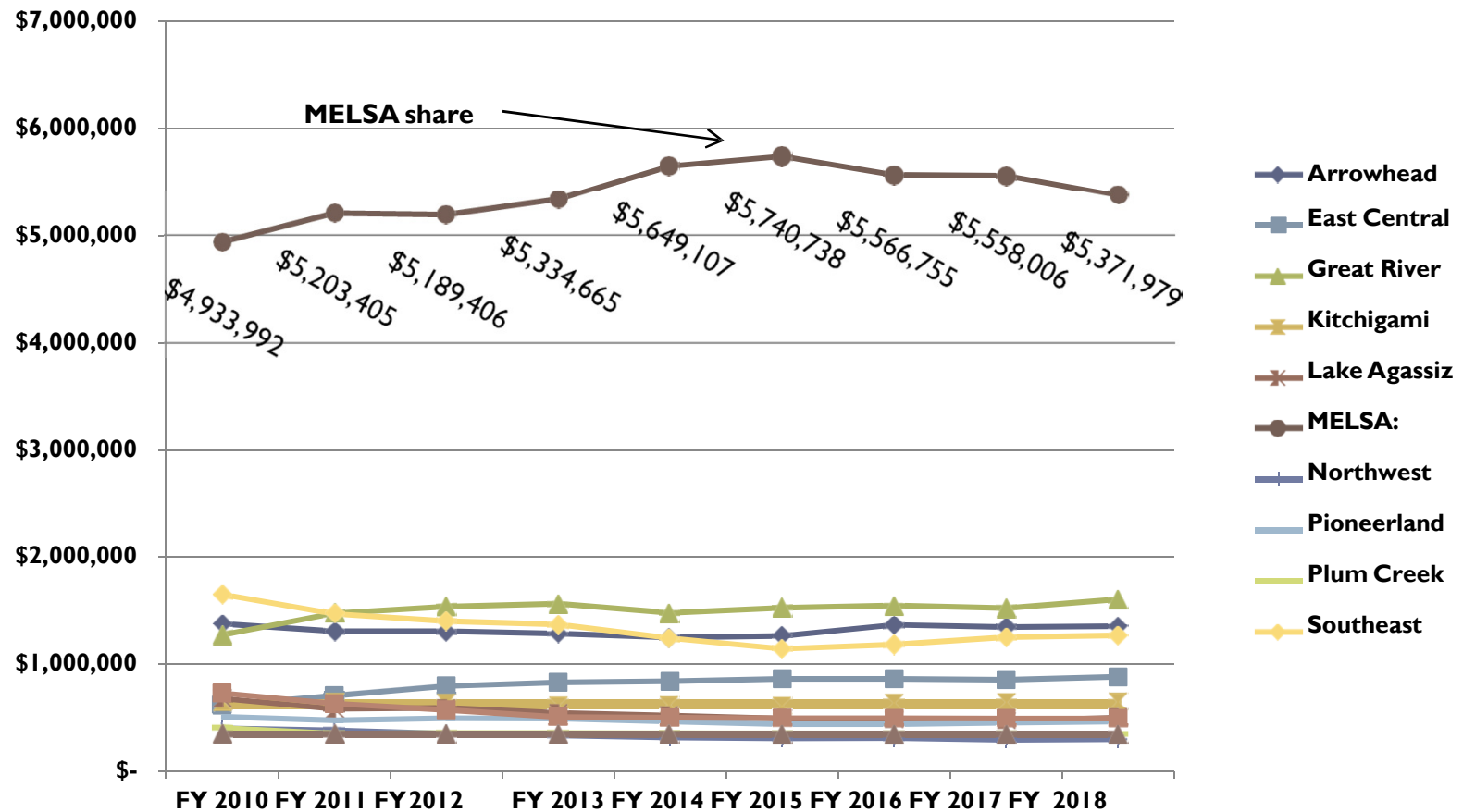
RLBSS Equalization Shares for MN Regional Public Library Systems:

FY2009 – FY2018



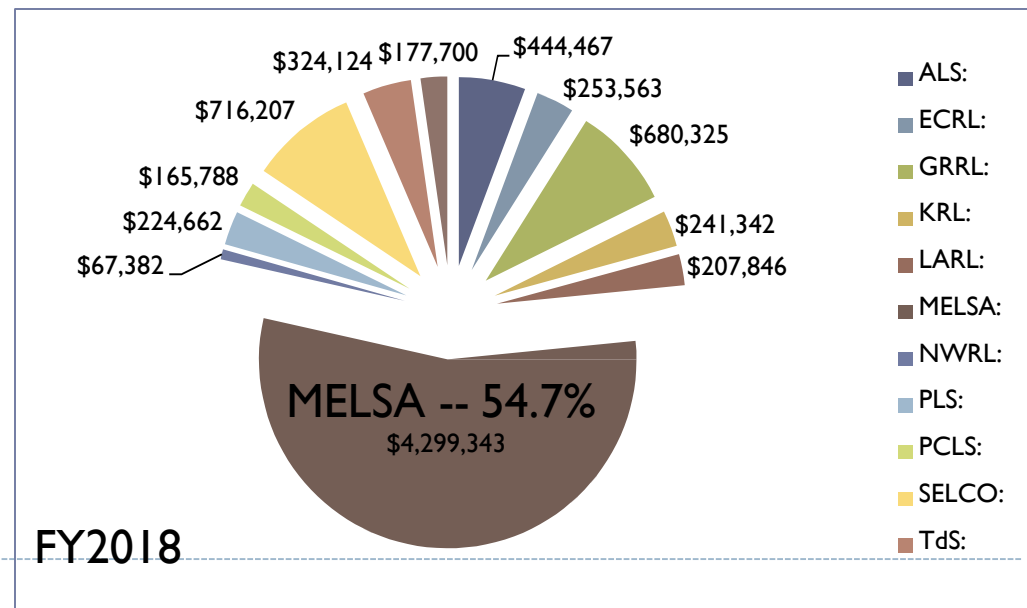
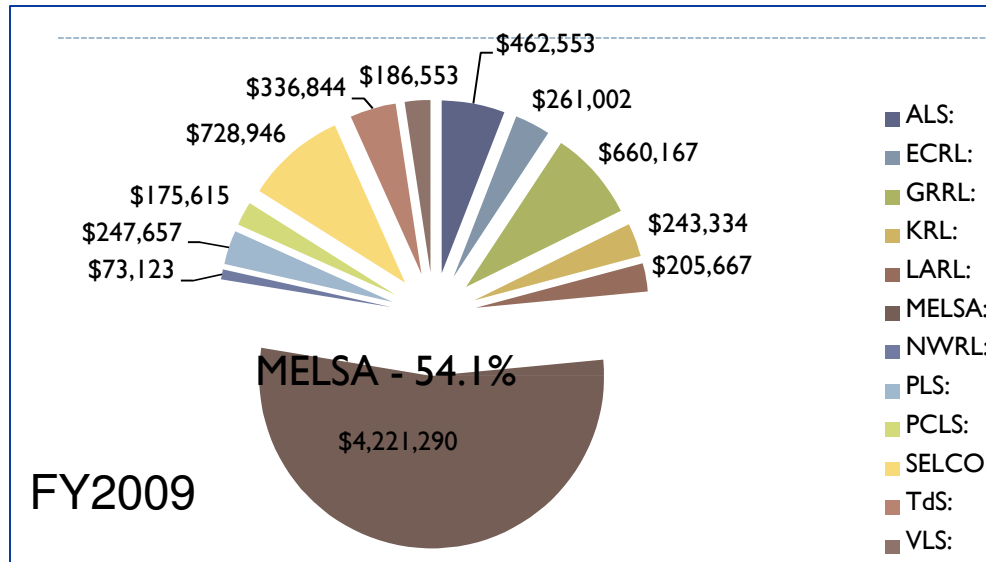
RLBSS Shares for MN Regional Public Library Systems:

FY2009 – FY2018

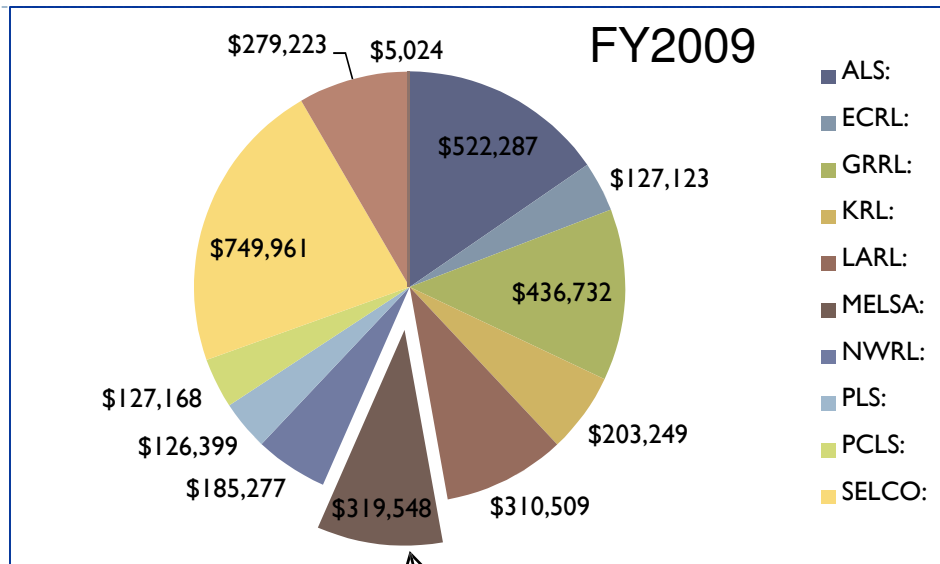


RLBSS Population shares by region:

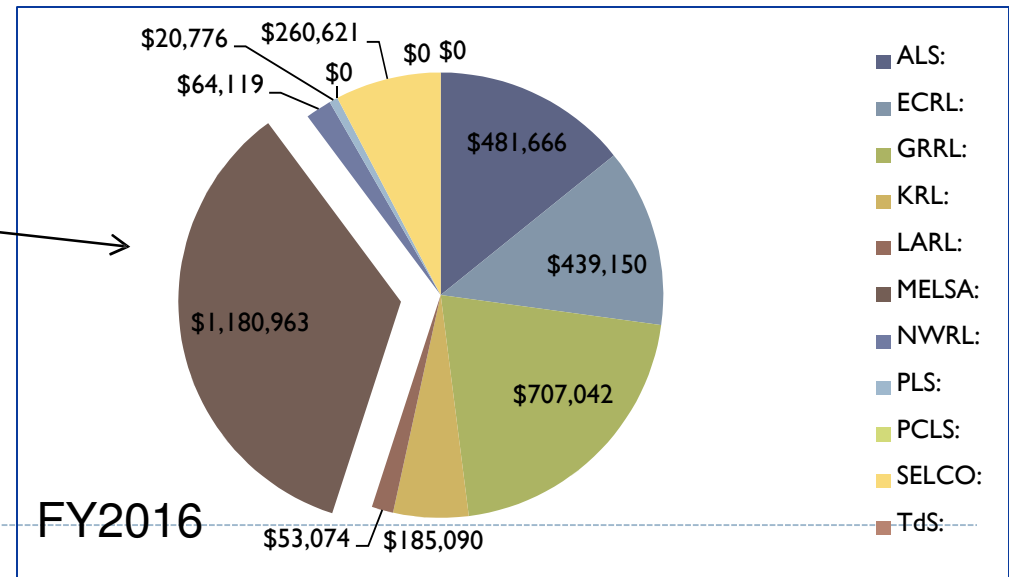
FY2009 and FY2016



RLBSS Equalization shares by region



MELSA Equalization
share

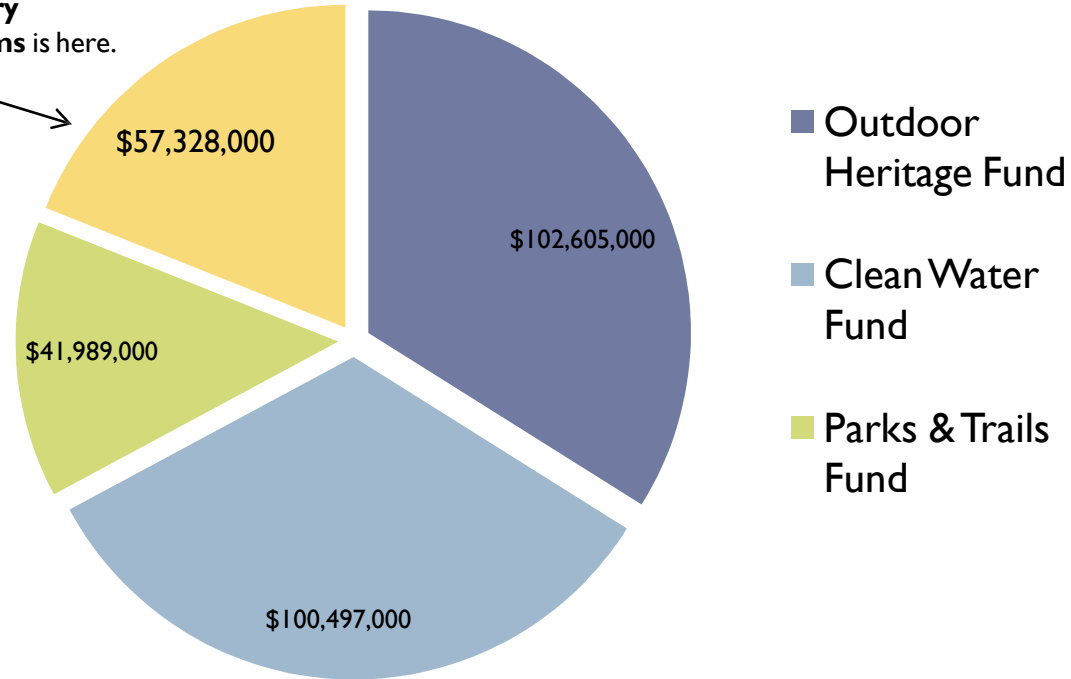


Quick RLBSS notes....

- 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

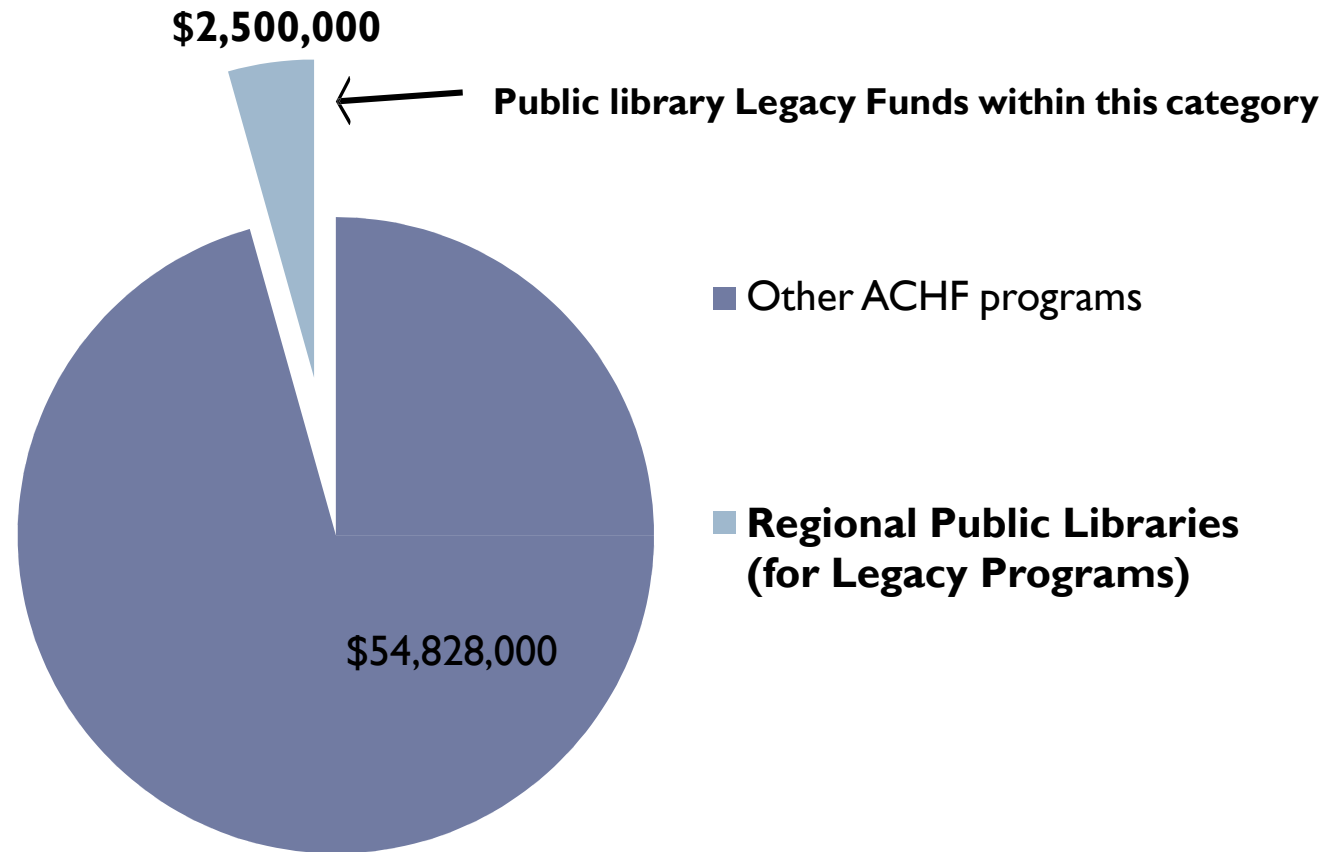
Money for **Library
Legacy Programs** is here.



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

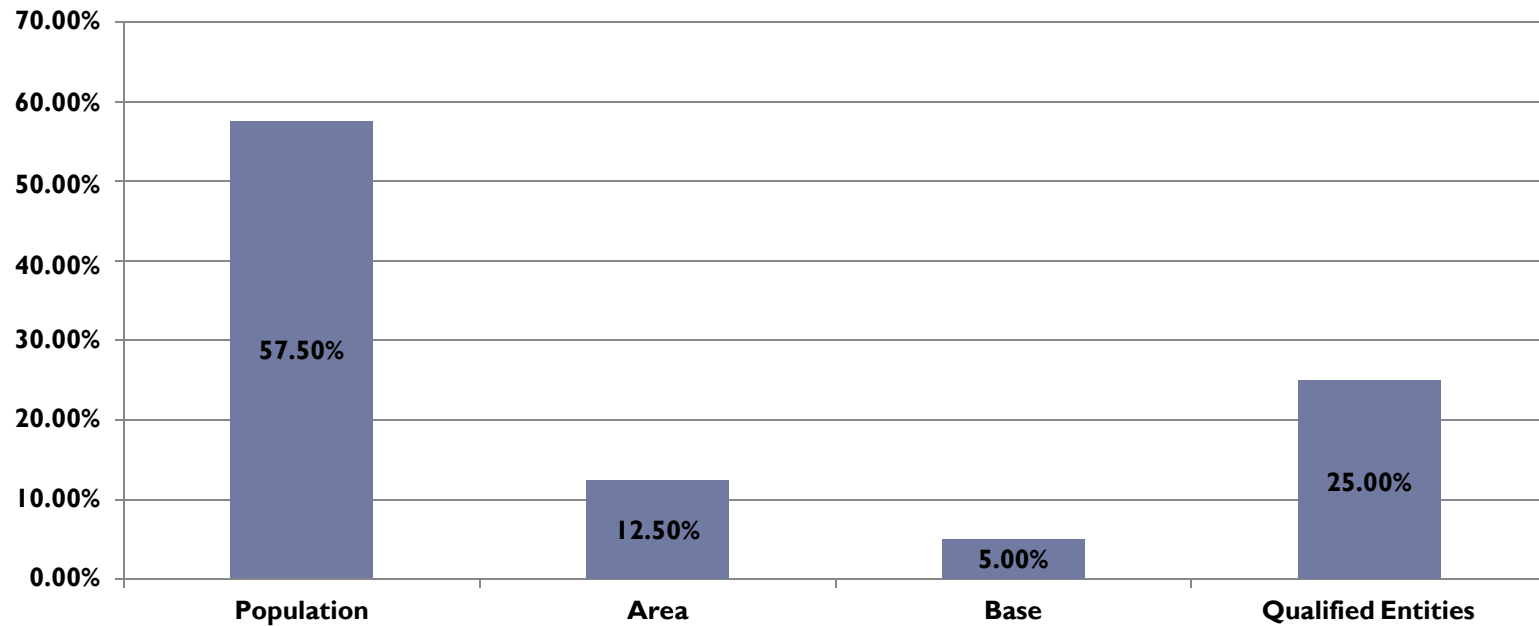
Legacy Fund Appropriations: FY 2018

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

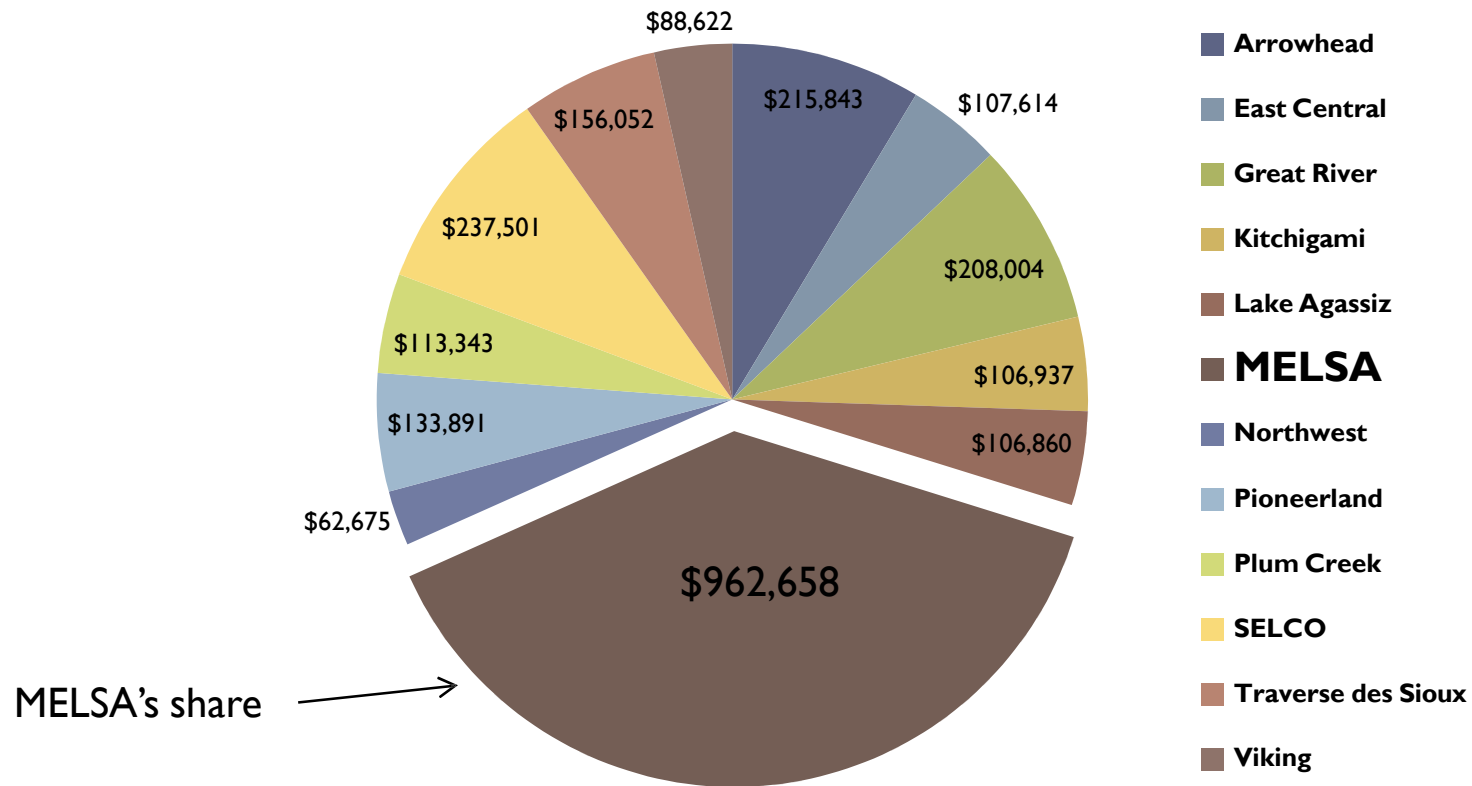


NOTE: "Qualified entities" means the number of public library buildings and bookmobiles in a region



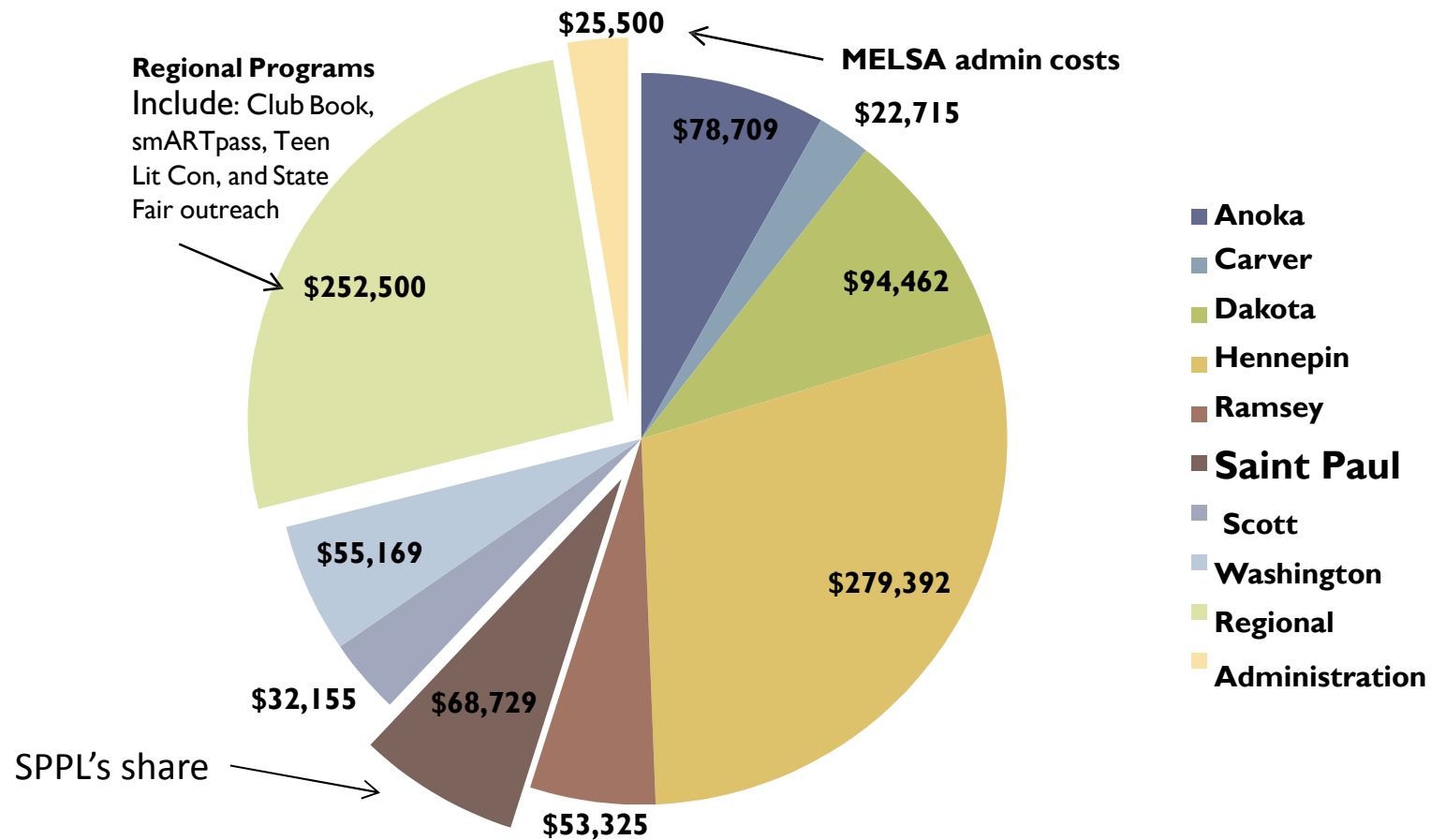
Library Legacy Fund Allocations: FY 2018

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....

- Funding stems from the 3/8^{ths} 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



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



Thank you –
and Questions???

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MELSA Executive Director
ken@melsa.org

