

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Our Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2026 marked the start of our new **five-year strategic plan**. Over the course of the year our staff prioritized the plan's 17 initiatives that fall under four broad themes. Work is underway on six initiatives addressing SMRLA's capacity, support for our partner libraries, and professional development.

As part of our strategic plan, we completed regional staff focus groups and surveys to gather input on training engagement, access, and future needs. The feedback is helping us further improve our **staff development program**. For example, a redesigned staff development site on the regional SharePoint site – called SMILEportal – now includes structured learning pathways through which staff can Attend, Watch, Read, Listen, Create, and Explore.

This year we revamped our Information Technology team and took the opportunity to partially **reorganize our personnel structure**. We split our previous Library Services Manager role into two positions: Information Technology Manager and Collection Services Manager. These positions report directly to SMRLA's CEO. We added an additional Information Technology Specialist position to enhance our regional IT service. We also created a Technical Services Associate position to lead projects, monitor the Technical Services Department's workflow, assist with acquisitions and cataloging, and complete Technical Services functions in the absence of the Collection Services Manager.

Our IT team led staff in a major effort to meet new federal **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines** for making digital content accessible to people with disabilities. We conducted accessibility checks on the SMRLA and public libraries' websites; checked with vendors to confirm compliance; developed internal documentation for SMRLA staff; and began to remediate websites. Our work continues to meet the April 2027 compliance deadline.

SMRLA collaborated with Calvert Library to develop **facility master plans** for each organization. The plans will help both libraries develop capital improvement plans to support applications for capital funding and grants. Following a competitive bidding process, the libraries chose HBM Architects for the project. The consultant conducted physical assessments of library spaces, engaged department leaders and staff, and deployed online surveys. The project is supported with grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Maryland State Library Agency.

In patron services, SMRLA purchased **regional subscriptions** to The Baltimore Banner and The New York Times to enhance our news resources. We also implemented the **MessageBee notification software** to ensure more reliable patron messaging about holds and overdue items. In April we kicked off a **direct mail campaign** promoting public libraries to the region's new residents.

Finally, SMRLA received the American Library Association's Sustainability Roundtable's **Citation for Wellness in the Workplace**. SMRLA was chosen for its strong commitment to employee wellness, professional development and sustainable workplace culture. Thanks to all SMRLA employees for helping to build an empowering workplace.

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KEY FIGURES

10,200
Training Participants



1,526
Training Sessions Completed



45,609
Items Processed



594,782
Total Items Delivered



28,966
Items Borrowed and Loaned



22,640
Digital Records Added



2,706,952
Online Resource Page Views

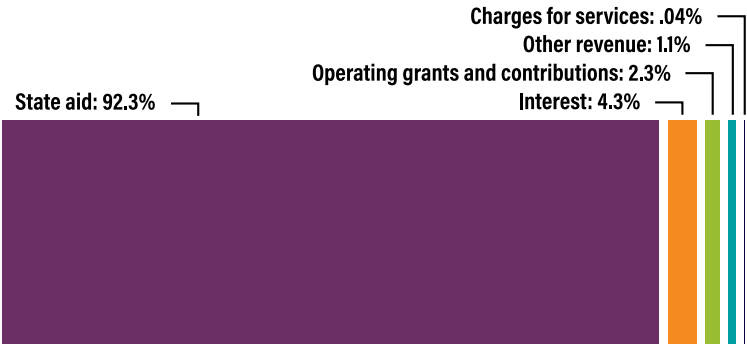


STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

State of Maryland Appropriations	
Operating appropriations	\$3,739,604
Grants	\$93,200
Delivery	
College of Southern Maryland	\$750
St. Mary's College	\$750
Utilities – St. Mary's	\$43,444
Interest	\$175,663
Total Revenue	\$4,053,694

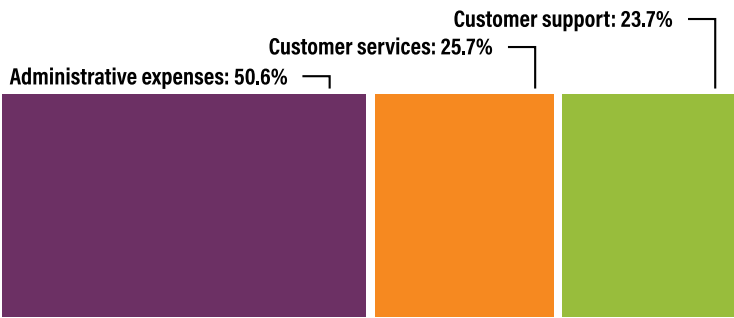
FY26 Revenue Sources



EXPENDITURES

Administrative Expenses	\$1,919,500
Customer Support	\$976,242
Customer Services	\$897,617
Total Expenditures	\$3,793,359

FY26 Functional Expenses



**EXCESS of REVENUES
over EXPENDITURES** **\$260,335**

FY25-FY26 Revenues		
	FY25	FY26
State Aid	\$3,639,904	\$3,739,604
Interest	\$232,222	\$175,663
Operating Grants and Contributions	\$44,200	\$93,200
Charges for Services	\$1,500	\$1,500
Other Revenue	\$34,967	\$43,444

FY26 Revenue Sources	
State Aid	92.3%
Interest	4.3%
Operating Grants and Contributions	2.3%
Other Revenue	1.1%
Charges for Services	.04%

FY25-FY26 Expenses		
	FY25	FY26
Administrative Expenses	\$1,915,183	\$1,919,500
Customer Support	\$855,503	\$976,242
Customer Services	\$998,659	\$897,617

FY26 Functional Expenses	
Administrative Expenses	50.6%
Customer Services	25.7%
Customer Support	23.7%