

# Libros for Oregon Preliminary Survey Results

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Compiled by Barratt Miller (Oregon City Public Library)

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# What is Libros for Oregon?

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*While Libraries in Clackamas County (LINCC) is the fiscal agent for this **LSTA grant proposal**, the project—if funded--will be **statewide** in scope.*

In order to improve library services to Oregon's Hispanic communities, especially those in rural areas, Libros for Oregon will:

- **send representatives to the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL) in Guadalajara** to purchase high quality Spanish-language books for participating libraries, with an emphasis on small, rural Oregon libraries. (The FIL is the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world and the best source of culturally-appropriate books written in Spanish, which are difficult and sometimes impossible to procure via usual means in the US);
- **help libraries to develop and implement outreach plans for working with their Hispanic communities** (OLA's Outreach and Reforma Round Tables will assist with outreach training, including archive-able webinars, and will help participating libraries develop outreach strategies that can be implemented by Spanish- and non-Spanish-speaking staff);
- and **create a “Best of FIL” booklist** (annotated to show US availability) for all Oregon libraries to use in collection development.

In LSTA Year 1, the grant administrator, in conjunction with an advisory council of key stakeholders (who will keep their constituents informed), will work to plan a program (including a participant application priority rubric; purchase request form; outcome-based outreach plan questionnaire; outreach report forms; etc.) that can be sustainably administered by the Oregon Library Association after the LSTA grant ends.

In LSTA Year 2, libraries state-wide will be invited to apply to participate in the program; and the administrator and council will implement the proposed activities and present a final proposal for long-term funding to the OLA Executive Board.

# Who responded to the survey?

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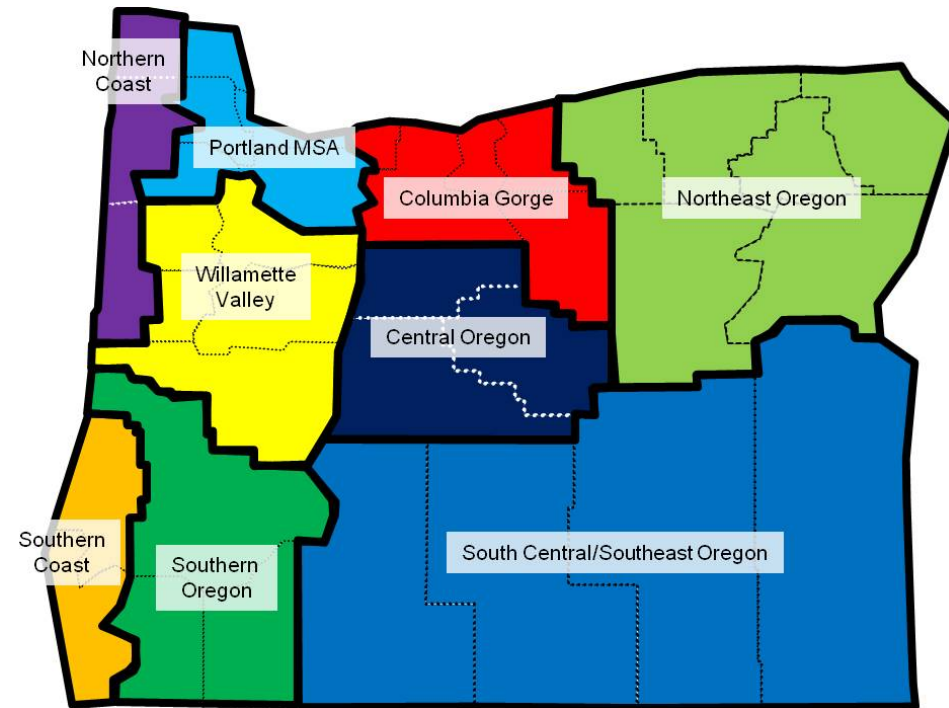
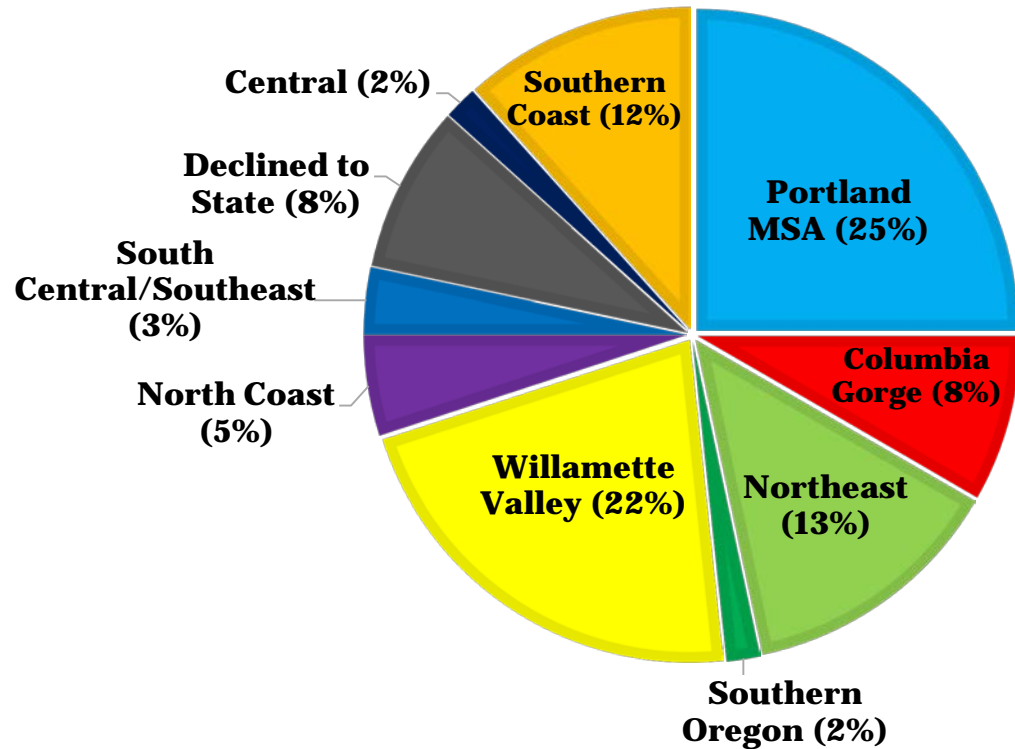
- Oregon public library directors from 60 public libraries representing 24 of Oregon's 36 counties responded to the survey.
- The survey link was distributed to directors via OR-PL Directors, the statewide library directors' listserv.
- Since all 135 libraries received the request, we had a 44% response rate between February 12 and March 31, 2016.
- Copies of the full survey results may be obtained by e-mailing Barratt Miller at [bmiller@orcify.org](mailto:bmiller@orcify.org).

# Survey Results

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# In what county is your library located?

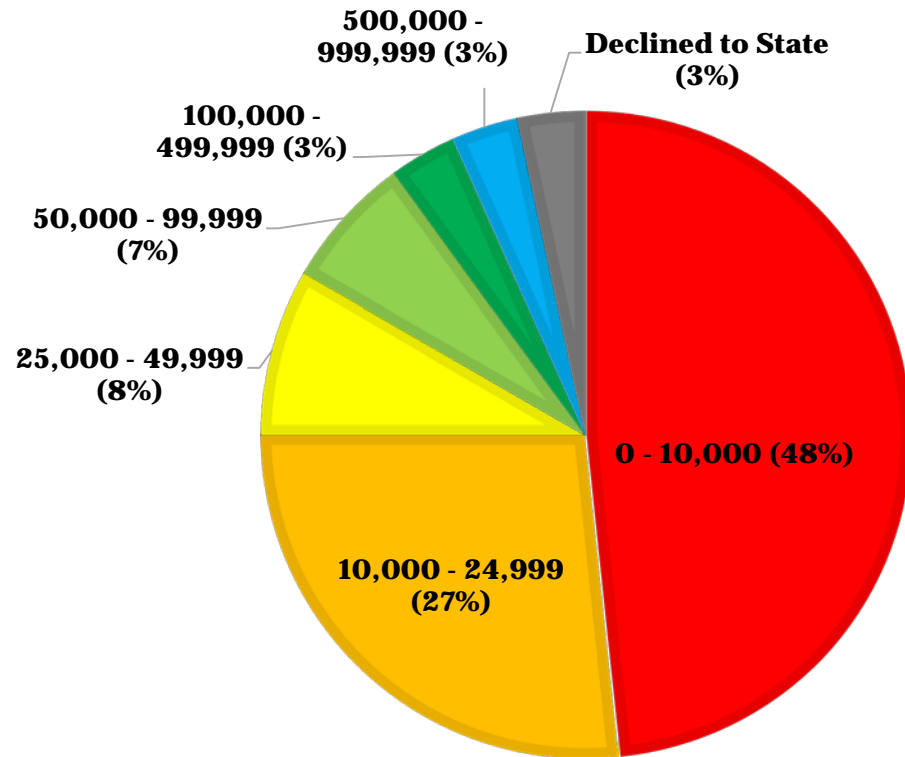
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Map Source: [Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](#)

# What is the size of your library's service area?

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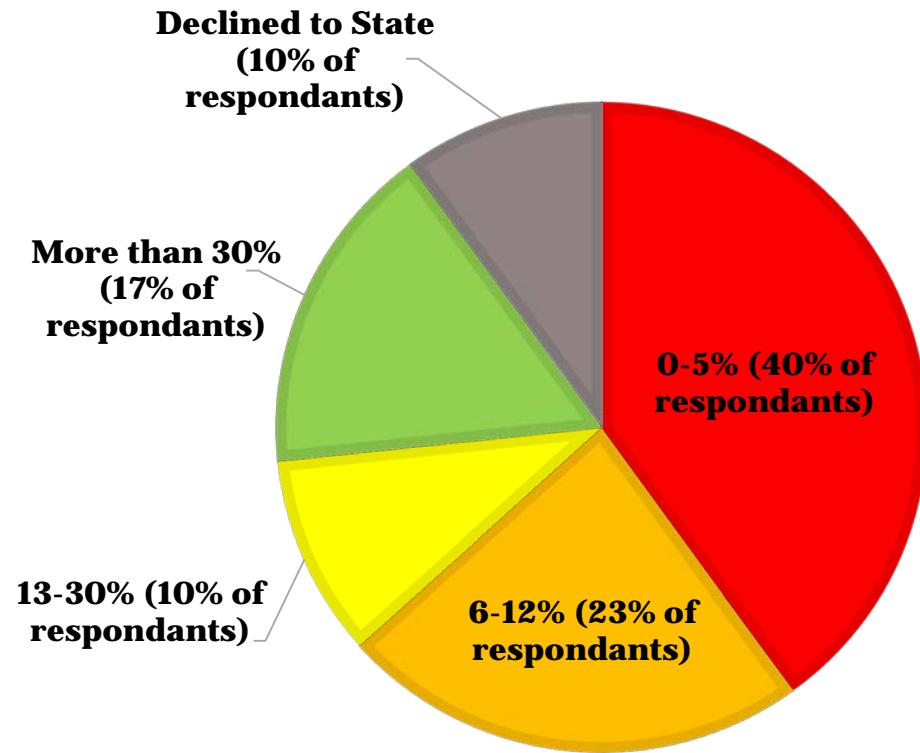


The median population size of an Oregon public library is 7,940.

Source: [\*Oregon Public Library Statistics 2013-14\*](#)

# Approximately what percentage of your population speaks Spanish?

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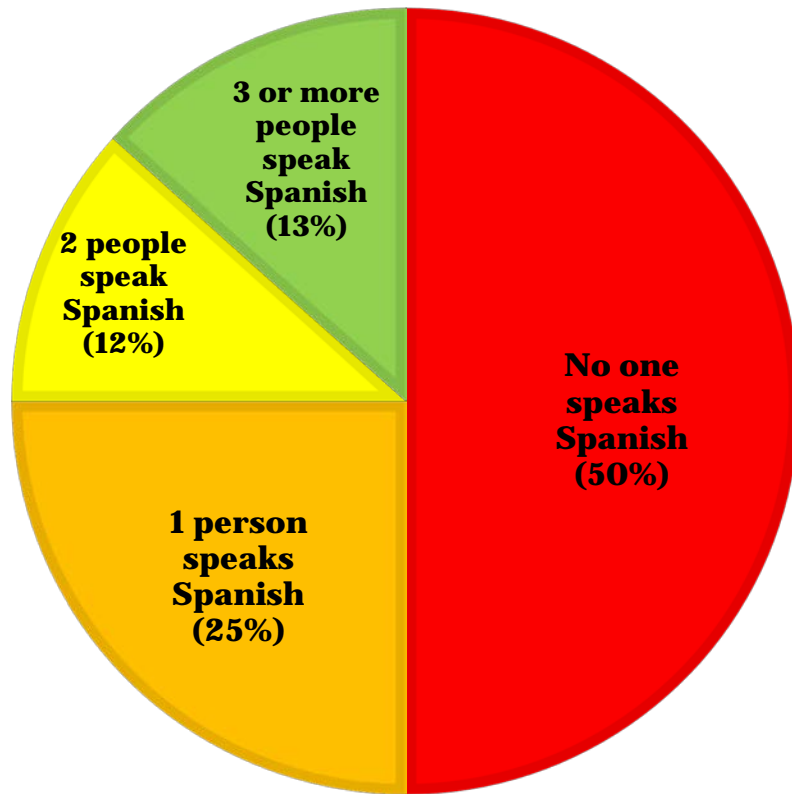


**12.5% of Oregonians are Hispanic/Latino**

Source: [\*US Census QuickFacts\*](#)

# How many of your library's staff members and/or reliable volunteers are proficient in Spanish?

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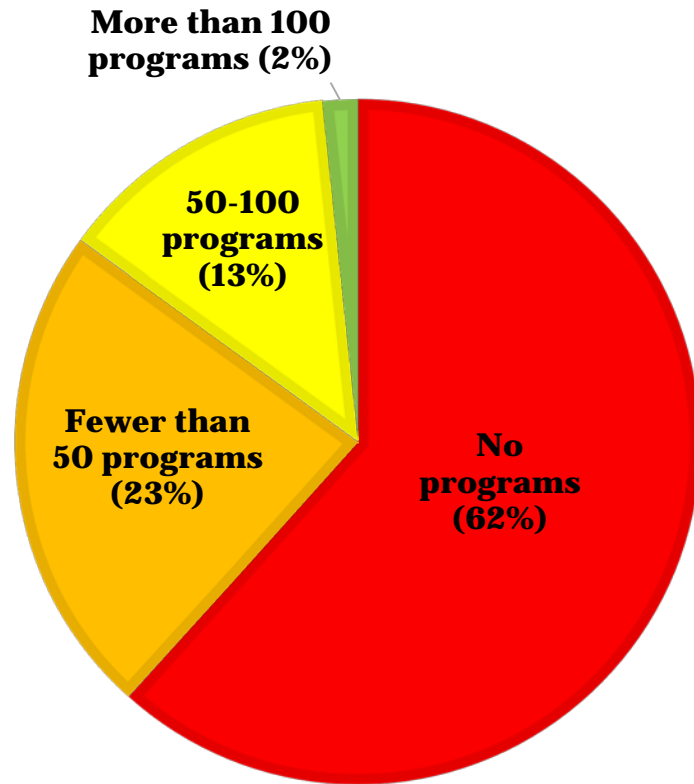
**The average Oregon public library employs 13.53 FTE.**

Source: *[Oregon Public Library Statistics 2013-14](#)*



# Did your library offer any bilingual programs last year? If so, how many?

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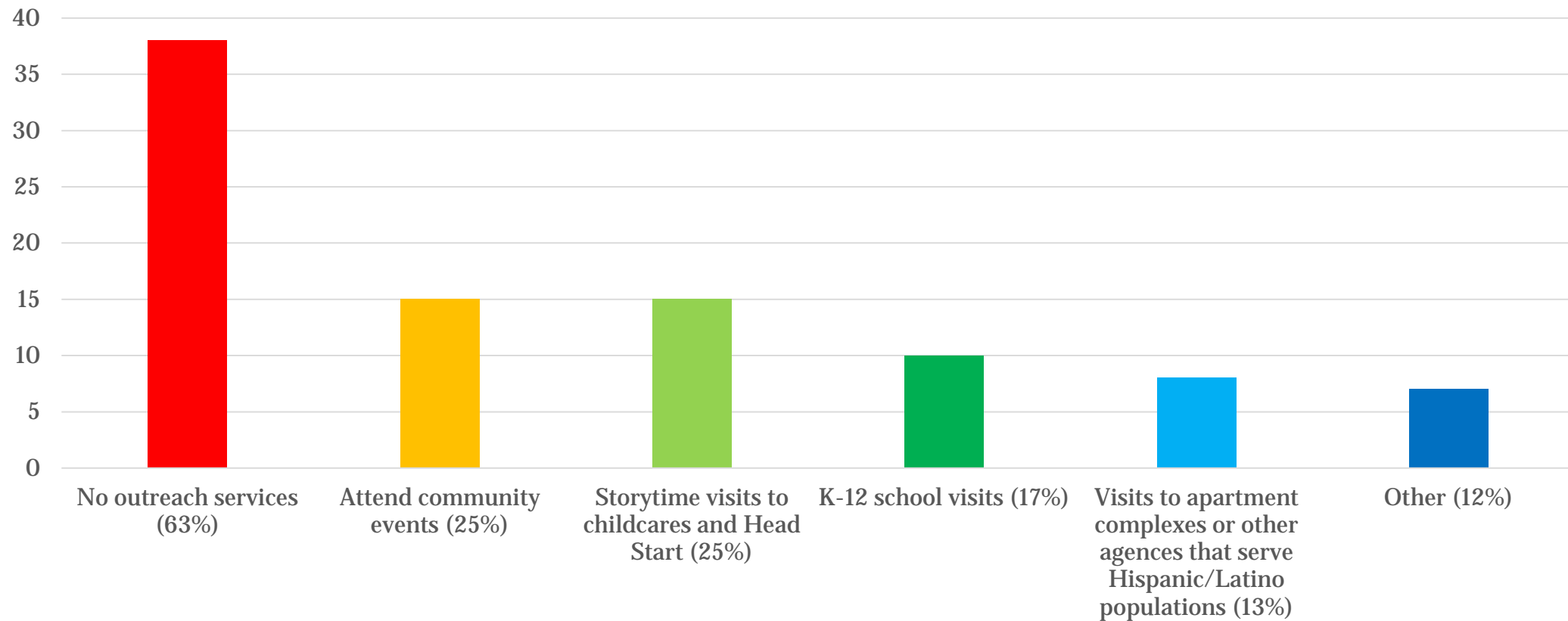


The average Oregon public library offered 489 programs in FY2013-14.

Source: [\*Oregon Public Library Statistics 2013-14\*](#)

# Does your library provide outreach services specifically to your local Hispanic/Latino community? If so, what services?

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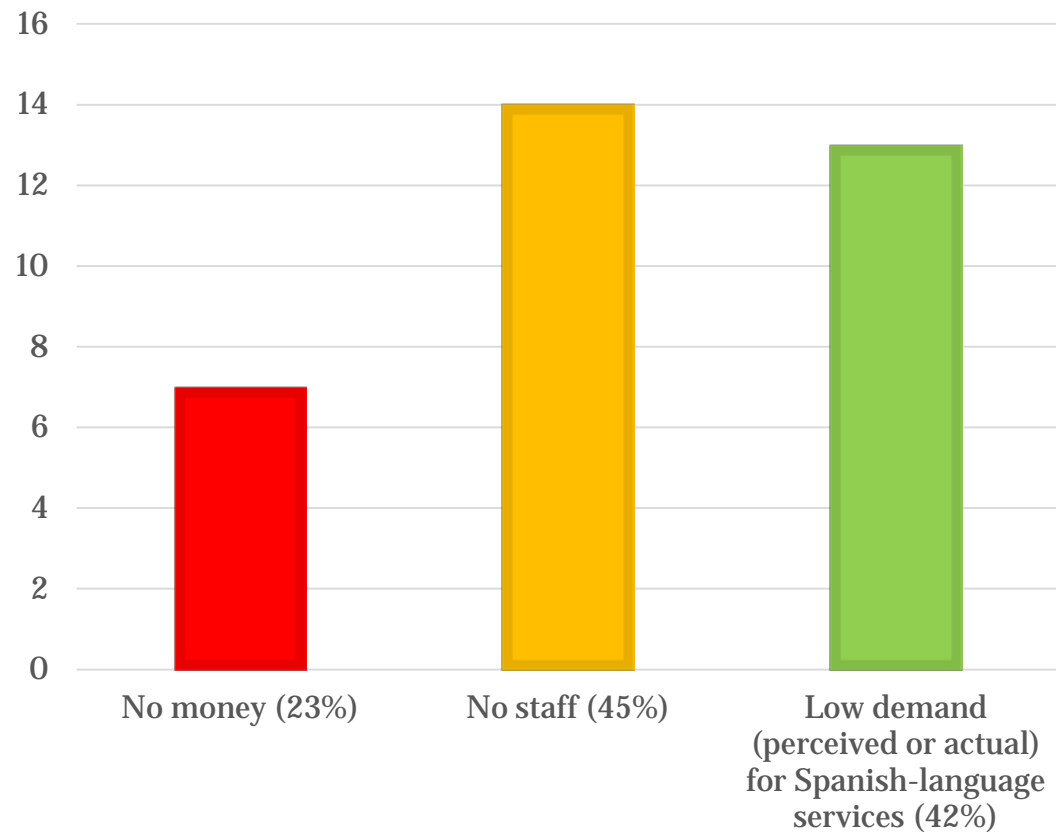


# If you have library services to Spanish-speaking community members, is there anything else you think we should know about what you're doing?

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- Our town has an Hispanic Advisory Board. One of our bilingual [staff members] (Spanish is her first language is she is from an area in Mexico that is largely representative of most of our immigrant/migrant population) serves on this board. We give her work time to do it. She gets a lot of information about library services out to the community through this board and also brings back information we need.
- We are reliant on the school district ESL staff as our liaison to the Spanish-speaking community. She coordinated the library-use instruction program we had with families she serves.
- We are planning to hold a meeting next week with key Latino community members to discuss future programming efforts.
- We use the Spanish-speaking assistant for school lunches to translate for us.
- We've really found that in-person and radio outreach is the only effective way to reach Latinos in our county.

# If you don't have library services to Spanish-speaking community members, is there anything else you think we should know about why you don't?



- We realize that we need to offer more, but need assistance developing and planning them.
- We simply lack enough staff (and budget to increase staff hours) to be able to provide much Spanish language programming, even though it is a priority.
- 4% represents those who identify as Hispanic for census. This doesn't mean 4% speak Spanish as their primary language or at all. We see little demand for bi-lingual materials or programs.

# Takeaways

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# Takeaway #1: Oregon's public libraries lack staff members who are proficient in Spanish.

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- Oregon public libraries currently fund approximately 1 paid FTE for every 2,000 people in the state.
- In order to proportionally serve Oregon's 500,000 Hispanic/Latino residents, 228 FTE would need to be proficient in Spanish.
- This survey identified 123 library workers or volunteers proficient in Spanish statewide, many of whom may not be employed full time.

Takeaway #2: Having 2 or more staff members proficient in Spanish increases the likelihood of a library offering outreach services specifically to their Spanish-speaking communities.

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- 79% of libraries that have 2 or more staff members proficient in Spanish offer outreach services specifically to their Spanish-speaking communities
- 19% of libraries with fewer than 2 staff members proficient in Spanish offer outreach services specifically to their Spanish-speaking communities

## Takeaway #3: Few libraries are offering regular Spanish-language or bilingual programs to their communities.

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- 11% of libraries serving communities in which fewer than 12% of residents speak Spanish offered at least 50 Spanish-language or bilingual programs last year.
- 32% of libraries serving communities in which more than 12% of residents speak Spanish offered at least 50 Spanish-language or bilingual programs last year.
- 15% of all responding libraries offered at least 50 Spanish-language or bilingual programs last year.



Takeaway #4: Libraries that do not offer services to their Spanish-speaking communities lack the local resources to provide these services.

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- 63% of Oregon libraries offer no programs or outreach services specifically to their Spanish-speaking communities
- 39% of these libraries cite lack of resources (staff, time, funding) as a primary barrier to offering programs or outreach services specifically to their Spanish-speaking communities

## Takeaway #5: Community partnerships help libraries enhance their services to Spanish-speaking patrons.

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- 42% of libraries currently offering bilingual programs or outreach services specifically to Hispanic/Latino communities have formed partnerships with local schools or community agencies to provide and market these services.

# How can I support Libros for Oregon?

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To learn more about the Libros for Oregon project or to volunteer for the advisory committee, please contact:

Deborah Gitlitz (Wilsonville Public Library)

E-mail: [gitlitz@wilsonvillelibrary.org](mailto:gitlitz@wilsonvillelibrary.org)