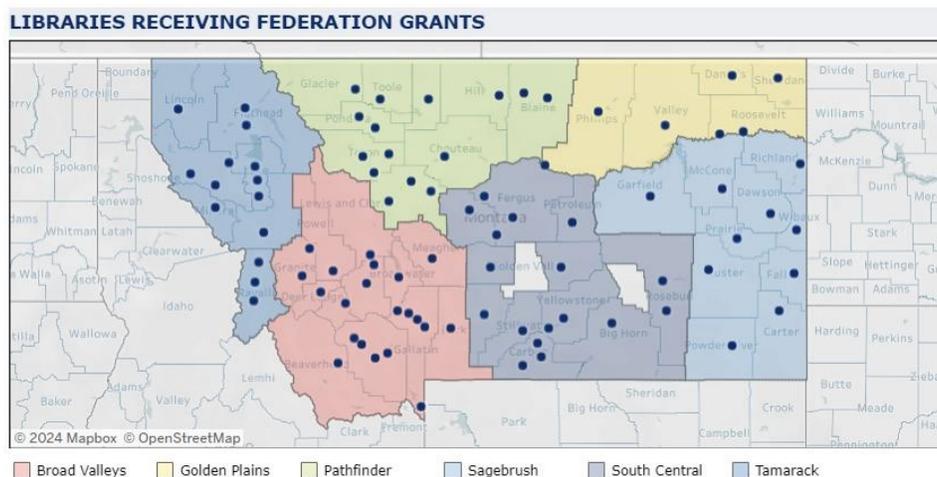


## What are they?

Federations consist of groups of libraries working together to provide a broader range of resources and services than individual libraries alone can offer. Federations are regional networks. There are currently 6 federations in Montana.

The Montana State Library Commission oversees federations. State Library staff and a library director selected by the federation membership are responsible for the logistics of managing federations.



## What is the role and purpose of federations?

The legislature created federations to encourage efficiency and the pooling of resources. The role of federations is to provide regional training and networking opportunities that improve library services.

## How are they funded? And how is that money used?

Federations are currently funded with Coal Severance Tax money which the legislature has given to the Montana State Library for the purpose of supporting basic library services. The money is used for collaborative projects and individual library grants to support resource sharing, programming, outreach, professional development, and technology.

## How do I get involved?

The six federations meet 1-2 times a year. Their meetings can be found on the [Events Calendar](#) hosted by the Montana State Library. You can contact State Library staff or the individual who manages the federation. Contact information for federations can be found on the [Federation website](#).

## Where can I learn more about federations?

State Library staff created a [history of federations video](#) that explains changes over time. You can also learn more about [federations on the Montana State Library website](#).