



NYLA 2018 BUDGET PRIORITY

**Equal Access, IT Infrastructure, and Energy Efficiency:
Fund the Public Library Capital Aid Program at \$30M**

Background:

- Public libraries require immediate, significant state investment to accommodate advances in technological infrastructure, make investments in energy efficiency, and increase access to differently-abled patrons
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department's Division of Library Development (DLD) articulates an existing \$1.7B in capital needs statewide
- The Public Library Capital Aid Program provides an immediate and efficient return on investment while boosting local economies; since 2007, state investment has leveraged more than \$500M in local funding – a 5:1 return
- Funding for the Public Library Capital Aid Program remained stagnant for a decade prior to recent investment; the accumulated capital needs forced the sale of library buildings, and has eroded operating funds for maintenance

Data Points:

- **New York State's public libraries are rapidly aging**
 - 48% of local libraries are more than 60 years old; an additional 33% are more than 30 years old
 - 25% are not accessible to differently-abled patrons
- **Public Libraries require capital investment to accommodate high-speed broadband infrastructure**
 - A January 2017 Siena poll found that for 25% of households making less than \$50,000 annually, the public library is their **primary source of internet access**
 - Stagnant funding disproportionately impacts economically disadvantaged communities, widening the digital divide
- **Public Libraries desperately require energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades**
 - Library use has surged statewide among all demographics, leading to longer hours and increased energy costs
 - Energy inefficient buildings have increased operating costs and forced reduced staffing and programming
- **Public Library capital needs have been comparatively underfunded**
 - Public schools: \$2.3B, five-year capital investment (Library Capital Aid = 4.1%)
 - Higher Education: \$3.2B, five-year capital investment in SUNY & CUNY
 - State Parks: \$900M, five-year capital commitment to fully address \$1B in deferred maintenance