



**NYLA 2017 BUDGET PRIORITY**

**Fair and Equitable Library Funding:  
Increase State Library Aid in Proportion with Increases in Education Funding**

**Background:**

- New York State Education Law requires state library funding in FY 2017-2018 to be \$102.6M
- Governor Cuomo continues to defund local public libraries – this year’s Executive Budget cuts library funding 4%, despite the assertion that Education funding will increase at least 4%
- More than \$111M in statutory library funding has been withheld since 2007, dramatically reducing critical services and opportunities on which the most economically and socially vulnerable New Yorkers rely
- Governor Cuomo’s budget proposes year-2001 library funding – the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year New York State will defund state library aid, let alone meet the minimum statutory appropriation for quality library services
- Library services are a core component of our state’s education infrastructure – **State Library Aid should be fully funded under the law, but must at least increase each year in proportion with education funding.**

**Data points:**

- **Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide**
  - A 2017 Siena Research poll again confirms five-year rolling data: library use is surging statewide; 15% among women respondents aged 18-34, nearly 15% among African-American respondents, 15% among Latino respondents, and among all income demographics; usage is up 20% nearly for households earning less than \$50,000 annually.
- **Libraries are a core component of our state’s educational infrastructure – LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATION**
  - The same 2017 Siena Poll found that 92% of New Yorkers say the public library is an important part of their local education system; this includes more than 96% of women, African-American, Latinos, and households earning less than \$50,000 annually
  - More than 60% of respondents – nearly 12 million New Yorkers – have used their local public library in the last 6 months; of those respondents, nearly 70% of African-American & Latino respondents bring their children to their library’s childhood literacy programs
  - Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State. When schools close at the end of each day, each week and each school year, libraries remain open to New York’s children and families.
- **Libraries are critical for access and equality**
  - This recent Siena polling data has also found that for nearly 2 million New Yorkers – including 33% of African-American and Latino respondents, and 25% of households making less than \$50,000 annually - the local public library is their **primary source of internet access**;
  - For respondents who have used their local public library for job-seeking or career-building programs in the last 6 months, 40% are African-American, 35% are Latino, 30% are aged 55 and older, and 40% are from households earning less than \$50,000 annually