



## **2018 BUDGET PRIORITY – STATE LIBRARY AID**

# **\$100M for Equitable Library Funding: Increase State Library Aid Proportionally with Education Funding**

### **Background:**

- New York State Education Law contemplates State Library Aid of \$102.6M for FY 2018-2019
- State Library Aid in the FY2017-18 enacted budget was \$95.9M, placing library aid at 2006 funding levels.
- More than \$118M in contemplated statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.

### **Data points:**

- **Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide**
  - A January 2017 Siena Poll found library usage is up statewide over the last five years in all demographics; the greatest increase in usage is among women aged 18-34, communities of color, in New York City and its suburbs, and households making less than \$50,000 annually
- **Libraries are a core component of our state's educational infrastructure – LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATION**
  - A January 2017 Siena Poll found that 92% of New Yorkers say their local library is an important part of their local education system, with a majority indicating library aid should at least increase in proportion to increases in education funding
  - 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 students and families
- **Libraries are critical for access and equality**
  - The same January 2017 Siena poll found the local public library is the primary source of internet access for 20% of African-American and Latino respondents, and 25% of households making less than \$50,000 annually
  - Of the respondents who have used their local public library for job seeking or career building programs in the last six months, 53% were African-American, and 40% were households making less than \$50,000 annually
- **Library systems are models of shared services**
  - Local communities realize \$7 in services for every \$1 allocated in State Library Aid, according to the most recent statistics from the State Education Department
  - State Library Aid ensures every community receives quality library services, and relieves local tax burdens