State Library Aid
Budget Request: $123.1M

→ New York State Education Law contemplates State Library Aid of $102.6M for FY 2020-2021.

→ State Library Aid in the FY2020-21 enacted budget was $94.1M. An additional 20% has been withheld due to the ongoing pandemic.

→ The Governor proposed cutting Library Aid an additional 7.5% in his Executive Budget.

→ More than $125M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.

→ Increased aid is needed to support the foundational framework of New York State libraries, improving the lives of residents of all ages, abilities, and economic status.

→ Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.

→ Information inequality plagues vulnerable, marginalized, and historically oppressed populations.

→ According to a survey by the New York Library Association, libraries have incurred, on average, more than $6,500 in COVID-related expenditures. (September 2020)

Reminders
Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide.

Libraries are a core component of our state’s educational infrastructure.

Libraries are critical for access and equality.

Library systems are models of shared services.

For every state dollar invested in libraries, they return $7 to their community.