



**THE STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY 12234

NYSED.GOV
ENGAGENY.ORG

Increasing State Aid for Library Construction

ISSUE:

The Board of Regents supports all public libraries having the capacity to accommodate new technologies and provide the knowledge resources New Yorkers need to be successful in an information-driven global environment. Additional capital funding is needed to allow public libraries to continue to upgrade and modernize their facilities.

BACKGROUND:

- New York's libraries are the public infrastructure that provides universal access to the three elements of digital equity: adequate internet, appropriate devices, and digital fluency skills.
- The State Aid for Library Construction Program is highly visible and has been very successful. During its fifteen years in existence, the program supported a total of 2,868 construction and renovation projects for 807 unique public library and library system facilities.
- The estimated need for new construction, expansion, and renovation of existing library facilities is over \$1.52 billion through 2025, as more than half of all public library buildings in New York are now over 60 years old, and another 30% are between 30 and 60 years old.
- The 2021-2022 enacted state budget provided \$34 million in capital funds to support State Aid for Library Construction.

2022-2023 BUDGET REQUEST:

\$11 million in additional state funds over the 2021-2022 level, for a total of \$45 million, to ensure that New York's libraries are accessible to all library users and can accommodate advances in technology, including improvements to broadband infrastructure.

Want to learn more? Select this link for additional details:

<https://bit.ly/3IAIwVp>