



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
info@nyla.org
www.nyla.org

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Media Contact: Jeremy Johannesen, 518-432-6952 Ext. 101, director@nyla.org

THE NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RELEASES MAJOR TAKEBACKS FROM COVID-19 LIBRARY RECOVERY EXPENSES SURVEY

ALBANY, NY – Today, the New York Library Association (NYLA) announced major findings from a recent survey of their membership. Starting in August, NYLA encouraged members to share the financial impact of adjusting operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in effort to quantify the impact.

After analyzing the data, **the statewide estimated impact was over \$4.5M**; spent on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other items to mitigate cross-contamination and enforce social distancing standards. Even more, **\$1.8M was spent solely on plexiglass**. Other significant items libraries had to purchase were touchless thermometers and extraneous supplies for curbside pickup.

“Libraries across New York State stepped up and modified their operations in order to serve their communities in new and innovative ways during the pandemic,” **said Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director of the New York Library Association (NYLA)**. “That evolution has not come without a dollars and cents cost – one that will prove challenging as we move forward into difficult funding times ahead.”

On average, of those represented in the survey, **libraries spent \$6,500 over their annual budget on PPE** which has the ability to make a significant financial strain on a library depending on their size and regional scope.

“Like everyone, libraries didn’t have an existing pandemic response line in their budget,” **said Claudia Depkin, NYLA Council President**. “These unplanned for expenses were all required in order to resume safe operations but will undoubtedly strain library budgets in the coming year.”

The New York Library Association (NYLA) will use this data in future budgetary and legislative asks in the upcoming Legislative Session in effort to put in perspective the impact of COVID-19 on library operations.

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About New York Library Association (NYLA):

The New York Library Association (NYLA) is the voice of the library community in New York. NYLA is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state. NYLA is the only statewide organization

dedicated to advocating on behalf of all libraries and library staff in Albany and serves as the spokesperson on library matters to the media and public policymakers.