



*The Voice of the Library Community*

**New York Library Association**

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## **NYLA 2020 BUDGET PRIORITIES**

### ***Increase State Library Aid to \$200M to Reflect Resources & Services Provided***

- New York State Education Law contemplates State Library Aid of \$102.6M for FY 2020-2021.
- State Library Aid in the FY2019-20 enacted budget was \$96.6M, placing library aid at 2008 funding levels.
- The Governor proposed cutting Library Aid by \$5M in his Executive Budget address.
- More than \$118M in contemplated 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.

### **Reminders**

- **Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide.**
- **Libraries are a core component of our state's educational infrastructure – LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATION.**
- **Libraries are critical for access and equality.**
- **Library systems are models of shared services.**

## ***Fund the New York State Library Construction Aid Program at \$75M***

- Funding for the Program was stagnant for nearly a decade until recent investment by the Legislature in 2018.
- In January 2020, the Governor proposed to once again reduce funding – cutting the Program by \$20M.
- Increased investment is needed to maintain and develop the physical infrastructure of New York State’s libraries, in order to ensure a safe, accessible and sustainable environment for the future.
  - The accumulated capital needs forced the sale of library buildings and has eroded operating funds for maintenance.
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department’s Division of Library Development (DLD) articulates an existing \$1.5B in capital needs statewide.
  - Over half of New York’s libraries are over 60 years old.
  - 25% are not accessible to differently-abled patrons.
- The Program provides an immediate and efficient return on investment while boosting local economies; since 2007, state investment has leveraged more than \$500M in local funding – a 5:1 return.

### **Reminders**

- **New York State’s public libraries are rapidly aging.**
- **Public Libraries require capital investment to accommodate high-speed broadband infrastructure.**
- **Public Libraries desperately require energy-efficient infrastructure upgrade.**
- **Public Library capital needs have been comparatively underfunded.**