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.