



Library Construction Aid Budget Request: \$69.4M

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AID PROGRAM:

Funds that are allocated annually in the State Budget for the use of public libraries and systems for construction, renovation, rehabilitation, or acquisition of new space. Other eligible or unique projects include broadband installation, emergency generators, and security systems.

WHERE WE WERE:

- In 2022, an allocation of \$34M was made to the Library Construction Aid Program.
- Last year’s investment came in the wake of a \$20 million reduction in 2020 and subsequent restoration of funding in 2021. **This year’s Executive budget would once again cut the program by \$20M.**

WHERE WE ARE:

- New York State’s public library buildings are rapidly aging.
Over half of our state’s libraries are over 60 years old.
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department documents an existing \$1.5B in capital needs statewide.

WHERE WE SHOULD BE:

- Increased investment would allow public libraries to maintain and develop their physical infrastructure to ensure they are safe, accessible, and sustainable for everyone.
- Additional capital for construction also means the capacity for projects that expand broadband access in communities with limited infrastructure and low-rates of connectivity.
- Expanded budgets mean expanded spaces and opportunities to promote literacy, creativity, civic engagement, and thriving and resilient communities.

IN YOUR DISTRICT:
