



State Library Aid Budget Request: \$147.1M

LIBRARY AID PROGRAM:

Funds that are allocated each year within the New York State budget for use by each library type and system. State aid supports interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation, and other resource sharing activities.

WHERE WE WERE:

- State Library Aid in the FY2022-23 enacted budget was \$99.6M.
- Nominal increases to State Aid had been given to libraries leading up to 2000.
- A steady decline occurred until 2007 when for the first and only time - Library Aid was fully funded under Education Law.
- New York libraries have struggled to secure adequate increases in funding for the last 15 years.

WHERE WE ARE:

- New York State Education Law calls for \$104.6M in State Library Aid for FY 2023-2024.
- More than \$129M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.
- Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.
- Libraries incurred thousands of dollars of expenditures to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Without a substantial increase in aid, libraries will be unable to bridge the growing gap between available funding, operational needs, and the cost of paying personnel wages that fairly compensate their labor.

WHERE WE SHOULD BE:

- Increased aid will allow for expanded collections via subscriptions and e-titles, the retention of new staff, and the creation of comprehensive programming for beginners and advanced learners.
- An increase in aid will assist communities by offsetting future local tax levy increases.
- If fully funded, libraries and their staff can expand their reach to ensure all New Yorkers are confident digital stewards through media literacy programs.

IN YOUR DISTRICT:

