



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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2017 BUDGET PRIORITY – STATE LIBRARY AID

Increase State Library Aid in Proportion with Increases in Education Funding

Background:

- New York State Education Law requires Library Aid for FY 2017-2018 to be \$102.6M. Total state funding in the FY2016-17 enacted budget was \$95.6M, placing library aid at 2006 funding levels.
- More than \$111M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.

Messaging:

- **Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide**
 - A January 2015 Siena Poll found library usage is up: 10% statewide, 15% among women respondents aged 18-34, nearly 15% among African-American respondents, 15% among Latino respondents, and among all income demographics, with usage up 20% for those households making less than \$50,000 annually.
- **Libraries are a core component of our state's educational infrastructure – LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATION**
 - A January 2015 Siena Poll found that 94% of New Yorkers say their local library is an important part of our education system, with nearly half saying library aid should increase proportionately to increase in education funding.
 - Libraries are chartered by the same Board of Regents that oversees schools, colleges, BOCES and other educational institutions, and library aid is administered through the NYS Department of Education.
 - Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State. When schools close at the end of each day, each week and each school year, libraries remain open to New York's children and families.
- **Libraries are critical for access and equality**
 - The same January 2015 Siena poll found for nearly 33% of African-American and Latino respondents, and 25% of households making less than \$50,000 annually, the public library is their **primary source of internet access**;
 - Of the respondents who have used their local public library for job seeking or career building programs in the last six months, 53% were African-American, and 40% were households making less than \$50,000 annually
- **Libraries and library systems are models of shared services** and collaborative planning. According to the State Education Department, local communities realize \$7 in services for every \$1 allocated in state aid.