Budget Priorities

New Jersey Residents Need Your Support for New Jersey Libraries

Initiative: Full Funding of Per Capita State Aid

**PURPOSE**

The State Library is requesting an additional $6.7 million to fund the Per Capita State Aid program at the statutory formula level of $10.387 million.

The New Jersey Legislature established the Per Capita State Aid program to provide library aid to public libraries in recognition of the important services that public libraries provide for New Jersey residents. This funding helps to maintain and expand library resources and programs and provides an incentive for libraries to meet minimum standards of service. The formula encourages municipalities and counties to support their public library at an appropriate level.

Initiative: Statewide Information Infrastructure

**PURPOSE**

The State library endeavors to leverage resource sharing and promote economies of scale through larger units of service. We request $3.6 million in additional Network Aid to support the array of services provided to libraries throughout the state. These efforts focus on economic development, literacy, and the lifelong learning needs of our residents and support the people of New Jersey in their quality of work and life.

FY2015

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
The people, communities and state of New Jersey face numerous challenges today. The State Library and our network of over 400 public library locations are ideal partners and uniquely positioned to aid in the development of solutions for today’s issues. We strive to focus on innovation and future trends, and seek exemplary models and technologies that can assist New Jersey libraries in remaining relevant and essential community anchors.

The New Jersey State Library provides support for public, school, academic and special libraries, and continues to provide services for learners of all ages. Key areas of continuing need include digital literacy, business outreach, workforce development, summer reading, school readiness and other out of school learning opportunities.

The State Library is responsible for the coordination, promotion and funding of the New Jersey Library Network. Through our partnership with LibraryLinkNJ, New Jersey's Library Cooperative, we continue to provide New Jersey librarians with resources in continuing education, so that through library centers statewide, we have the reach, tools and vision to make a difference in the lives of the people of New Jersey, and have an impact on the economic recovery in the state.

New Jersey’s Libraries: Community Assets

Libraries are essential community assets. Insuring that the residents of New Jersey have strong, relevant library services to meet the challenges of the 21st century requires a funding partnership between local libraries and the state of New Jersey.

- **Restore Funding for the Per Capita State Aid Program** – A critical component of local library support.
- **Establish A Capital Construction Program for Public Libraries** – Renew the Library Construction Bond program to provide capital funding for public library buildings and technological infrastructure.
- **Uphold Funding for Strong Local Libraries** – Support legislative activities which provide a strong financial foundation for local public library services.
- **Maintain Funding for New Jersey Library Network** – A model of shared services and innovative funding that provides a statewide delivery system and cost sharing programs which are critical to the operations of all types of libraries in New Jersey.

New Jersey Library Association
The voice of New Jersey Libraries and librarians

**NJLA State Legislative Initiatives 2014**

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