



The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) provides leadership to the state of New Jersey in the provision of excellent library and information services to state and local government, as well as to public, school, academic and special libraries, and New Jersey residents. Support and outreach services are provided by staff at the State Library, as well as through the rich resources of the State Library Information Center, the Talking Book & Braille Center, and the state-wide library consortium, LibraryLink New Jersey.

LIBRARIES RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

NJSL and our network of over 400 public library locations are ideal partners and uniquely positioned to aid in the development of solutions for the numerous challenges facing the people, communities and state of New Jersey. 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.

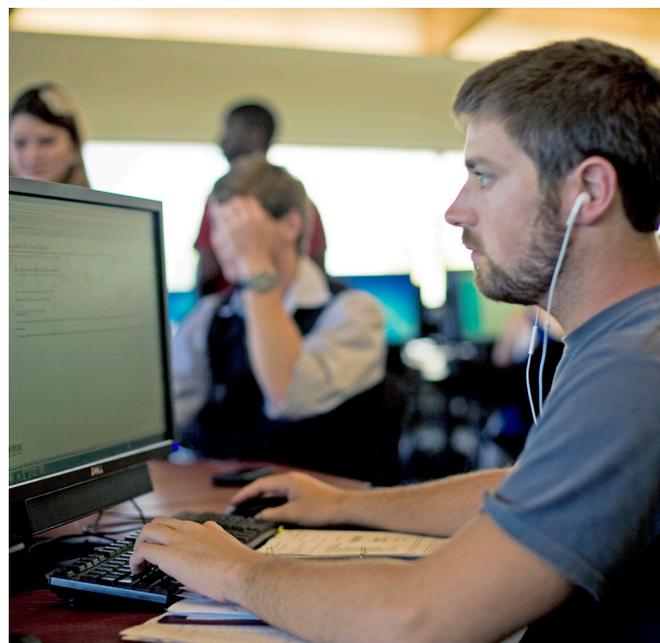
Focusing on digital inclusion; early and emergent literacy; and entrepreneurial and small business development will help to close the widening educational and digital divides in the increasingly complex environment awaiting the workforce of today and tomorrow.

Services in support of economic development and literacy skills would mean that communities, statewide, would have the resources to ensure that the people of our state are able to compete in today's ever-changing economy.

PER CAPITA STATE AID

The Per Capita State Aid program (PCSA) provides aid to public libraries so that they may maintain and expand resources and programs that support the diverse needs of their communities. The State Library is requesting an additional \$6.7 million to restore PCSA to the statutory formula (N.J.S.A. 18A:74-3) of \$10.4 million. This full appropriation would provide appropriately 2.4 percent of the local libraries' annual budgets.

- There are over 47 million library visits, 60 million items circulated, and over 10 million uses of public internet computers at libraries per year.
- PCSA funds are the only state funds available to purchase materials, to support staff salaries and benefits, and to pay for other library operating expenses.
- State funding for public libraries is 50 percent lower than what it was a decade ago.
- Local funding is at the same level it was a decade ago, yet inflation has increased 23 percent.



In FY 2017, NJ's librarians will face growing numbers of increasingly diverse users, and requests for broader and more sophisticated services addressing learning, economic and community challenges.

INITIATIVE

INCREASE LIBRARY MATERIALS AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES – \$500,000

The State Library's second budget priority is for \$500,000 to expand access to electronic resources and enhance the print collection of the State Library Information Center, which maintains the largest publicly-accessible law library in the state and serves as the principal library of state government.

The State Library's collections budget has been flat-funded since FY1999 when it received a one-time Special Purpose funding of \$500,000. In addition, publishers' prices have increased an average of 11 percent per year since then.

Many of the State Library's collection strengths are in subject areas where it is critical to have current information. This is especially

true for our law collection – used by state legal researchers, as well as attorneys all over New Jersey. This collection includes hard cover legal treatises and practice guides, many of which are, at least, five years out of date.

In order to bring the law library up to date, which is of immeasurable benefit to state judges, attorneys and legal researchers, as well as to enhance other collections that are used by researchers and residents of the state, the State Library is requesting an increase of \$500,000 to the Special Purpose appropriation.

Help the State Library continue to be an essential source of authoritative information and maintain its status as a premier research library whose main goal is to serve the needs of state government by providing:

- Extensive collections of print and electronic resources.
- Highly skilled research librarians who are subject area specialists.
- A full range of library services including book and article requests, continued education and training, interlibrary loans and librarian assisted research.
- Over 26,000 digitally formatted publications, as well as over 6,000 unique legislative histories, readily available online.
- Subscription to a number of databases specifically for the use of state employees.
- Classroom instruction for state workers and others on a wide range of topics, including grant seeking, using legal resources, downloading e-books, genealogy, acquiring new languages online, and more.

KEY AREAS OF ASSISTANCE

New Jersey's libraries – comprising the State Library and public, school, academic and special libraries – provide opportunities and assistance for the people of New Jersey in support of their pursuit of knowledge, learning and rewarding employment.

The State Library fosters resource sharing and leverages economies of scale through promoting larger units of service. This network of library access points spans the state and is intended to provide resources for all.

- Access to Government Forms & Services
- School Readiness
- Formal Education & Informal Learning
- Technology Skills & Digital Literacy
- Business Outreach & Workforce Development



NJSL CORE VALUES

Our core values are our guiding principles.

They guide us in working together to carry out our mission and envision our future.

- **SERVICE** – *Provide* information resources and library services for members of the legislature, state employees, the state's libraries, Thomas Edison State University students and faculty, and residents of the state, including those of all ages whose ability to read standard print is affected by a vision or physical impairment, or a reading disability.
- **TECHNOLOGY** – *Evolve* to meet the changing technological needs of New Jersey's diverse community of learners by enabling direct and remote access through their libraries to resources in a variety of formats.
- **COMMUNITY** – *Inspire* lifelong learning to strengthen our communities and enrich the lives of our users through equal access to information and library services in areas of continuing need.
- **INNOVATION** – *Invest* in the development of New Jersey's libraries by fostering the professional training of library personnel and providing effective leadership and administration to support and improve library services.
- **COLLABORATION** – *Leverage* investments and expertise for the greater benefit of the state, its communities and its residents.

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