New Jersey libraries are strong and responsive community anchors assisting job seekers, entrepreneurs and students. By promoting the success of New Jerseyans, libraries support the economic recovery of the state. In support of the people and libraries of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Library requests funding in three priority areas totaling an additional $9.51 million in FY 2020:

**$6.71 million** To restore the Per Capita State Aid program to the statutory funding level of $10.386 million.

This program provides direct assistance to public libraries, allowing them to remain strong community anchors throughout the state.

- The combination of reduced budgets and flat funding at the local level, as well as the 43 percent decrease in Per Capita State Aid since FY 2010, has resulted in reduced hours, decreased staffing and fewer programs being offered to residents.
- The restoration of Per Capita funding would allow libraries to increase hours and staffing and expand services to more fully meet the needs of their ever-changing communities.

Thank you, library staff, for helping me with my resume. I got a job with a local area housing authority. I had been looking for over a year.

– RAFAEL F. LIBRARY USER
$1.8 million in additional Library Network Aid, to support the shared services provided through the Network including the statewide delivery of interlibrary loan materials and to upgrade the JerseyConnect statewide technology infrastructure.

Statewide Library Delivery is an excellent example of cost effective shared services between the State Library, LibraryLinkNJ and over 400 libraries representing every county in the state.

- **55 million items** were circulated by New Jersey’s public libraries in 2016.
- This includes the sharing of **4.7 million items** with each other.
- **Without sharing**, these materials would have been purchased at an estimated cost of **$94 million**.
- Interlibrary delivery expenses have increased by __%, while funding has remained flat.

- Critical upgrade of New Jersey statewide library technology infrastructure, which provides reliable core internet connectivity and related services to more than 300 library locations across the state.

The JerseyConnect network will be unable to provide crucial technology and services, and residents will be unable to access information quickly, easily and reliably if the network is not upgraded as the internet becomes more complex and the infrastructure ages.

Increase the State Library Information Center’s Materials and Electronic Resources

$1.0 million To enhance the holdings and expand access to electronic resources in the State Library Information Center, to better serve state employees and the residents of New Jersey.

- The State Library Law print and electronic collections are of immeasurable benefit to state judges, attorneys and legal researchers.
- Development of the law library has been impacted by a decrease in purchasing power due to eight-years of flat funding and rising costs that average 11 percent per year. As a result, fewer new and updated resources have been added and many annual subscriptions and updates have been canceled, resulting in loss of access to current research materials.