Wisconsin Library Association
2019-2021 State Budget Priorities

Improving Wisconsin Public Library Services
Through a Public Library System Funding Increase

An increased investment in **Public Library System Aid** benefits **all the residents of Wisconsin** by improving the state's 381 public libraries' ability to provide programs and resources tailored to **the needs of their communities.**

State aid to Public Library Systems represents a modest--yet vital--investment that generates key value by expanding access to resources made with local investments. Increased funding of the state's public library systems creates more opportunities for shared efficiencies, helps local libraries innovate, and strengthens libraries' abilities to respond to urgent local needs. An increase in state aid will be targeted to:

Develop Wisconsin's Workforce

Wisconsin's public libraries provide valuable support to residents seeking to improve their skills, change careers, and apply for jobs. Funds allow investments in **online courses**, in-person assistance including **resume building and interview coachin**g**, technology training**, and improving **financial literacy**. For many Wisconsin residents the public library is the only gateway to advanced learning at technical colleges and universities leading to higher paying jobs. Libraries also offer key resources for start-up businesses that grow Wisconsin's economy.

Improve Access to Information through Technology

Insufficient technology infrastructure, lack of access and affordability, and slow adoption of innovation place many Wisconsin residents at a disadvantage. Children are particularly at risk when they are unable to access information they need to learn. Public libraries are the only library for homeschooled children. Many families cannot afford internet access at home. Funds will be directed toward **improving technology services** such as offering **Wi-Fi hotspots**, iPads, and maker kits for home use, **digitization services**, **coding initiatives**, in-person **technology training**; improving **Internet access**, **information literacy**, and **technology security** as well as investing in technology equipment for **creative learning labs** where people can learn robotics, 3D modeling, sewing, website design, film editing, and more.
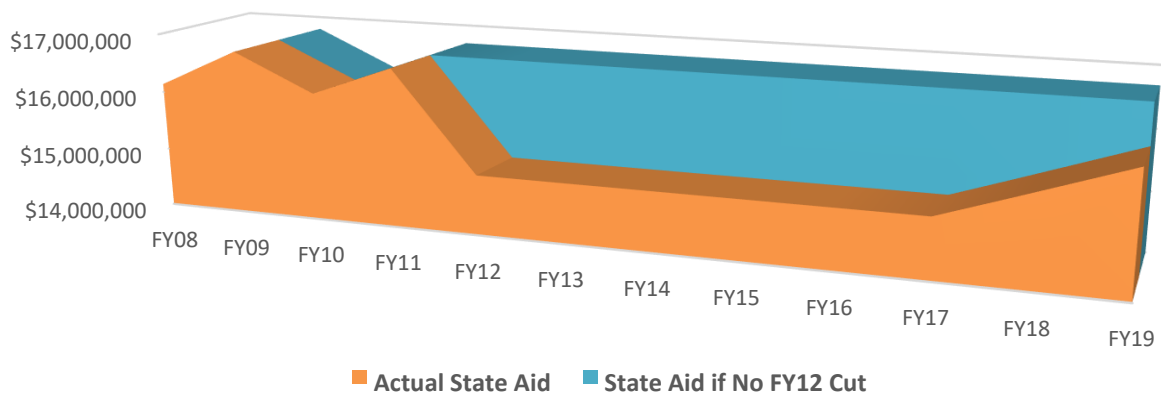
Stimulate Lifelong Learning

Public libraries are a gateway to a better life though lifelong learning. The library is the only learning institution that serves residents in all stages of life. Funds will better address age-specific needs through programming. **Early literacy programs** help young brains develop and gets kids ready for school. **STEM programs** for youth encourage students to consider careers in science, technology and engineering—much needed for Wisconsin's future economic development. **Programs for the elderly** provide social networks and help preserve cognitive function.

Historic State Aid to Public Library Systems

State Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Change from Prior Year	If no budget cut in FY12	Difference
FY08	$16,138,000	4.0%		
FY09	$16,783,500	4.0%		
FY10	$16,165,400	-3.7%		
FY11	$16,681,200	3.2%		
FY12	$15,013,100	-10.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY13	$15,013,100	0.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY14	$15,013,100	0.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY15	$15,013,100	0.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY16	$15,013,100	0.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY17	$15,013,100	0.0%	$16,681,200	-$1,668,100
FY18	$15,513,100	3.3%	$16,681,200	-$1,168,100
FY19	$16,013,100	3.2%	$16,681,200	-$668,100
Total Aid, FY12 through FY19	**$121,604,800**		**$133,449,600**	**-$11,844,800**

Public Library System Aid FY08-FY19

■ Actual State Aid   ■ State Aid if No FY12 Cut

Public Library System Aid Request

CHANGE TO BASE	FY20	FY21
Total Amount	$17,513,100	$19,013,100
Base*	$15,013,100	$15,013,100
Requested Increase	**$2,500,000**	**$4,000,000**

Reverts to the FY17 funding level (one-time increases provided in Act 59)

INCREASE DETAILS	FY20	FY21
Restore to FY19 aid (Act 59)	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Additional aid	$1,500,000	$3,000,000
Total request	**$2,500,000**	**$4,000,000**

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