

LIBRARY ADVOCACY 2023

STATE LIBRARY AID BUDGET REQUEST: \$147.1M

Libraries in your region appreciate your ongoing support of State Aid for Libraries and the Construction Aid program for Public Libraries.

In our System, State Aid for Libraries supports the functions of the OWWL Library System including the following services:

- Outreach program – Books by Mail, Community Book Distributions, One Book OWWL Kids.
- Delivery of materials – Six days a week of regional delivery to all 42 libraries.
- Integrated Library System – Support of software to allow patrons to borrow materials from our 42 libraries.
- Continuing education for Staff and Trustees – Leadership programs and fulfilling training requirements.
- Coordination of online collections – eBook, Audiobook, eMagazine, and database collection available to every Ontario, Wyoming, Wayne, and Livingston Counties resident.

Last year, on April 9, 2022, the State budget allowed for a modest increase in State Aid for Libraries to \$99.6M. That comes out to about \$1.4M that we receive locally for System services and direct aid to member libraries. Funding Library Aid at the same or a higher level will help our System provide consistent services to our members and Ontario, Wyoming, Wayne, and Livingston Counties.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AID BUDGET REQUEST: \$69.4M

In the 2022 State Budget, libraries received \$34M for Construction Aid. Our \$900,000.00 of this aid was distributed to nine libraries for projects that included ADA accessibility projects, library expansions, new roofs, HVAC installations, and safety/security upgrades.

Our most recent estimation for System-wide library renovations and upgrades over the next five years totals \$15M. Having funds from this program increases the likelihood that more libraries will be able to upgrade their facilities to support their communities.