

**Public libraries are asking for an increase of \$2.8 million to the public library subsidy which is 4%.**

### Libraries are supporting lifelong learning, and access to resources.

- ✚ Public libraries support educational resources and programs for all ages.
- ✚ Homeschool and cyber study families are frequent users of public libraries.
- ✚ Adults and seniors seek library programs to keep their minds engaged, and to find needed social engagement for positive mental health.
- ✚ Broadband access is still limited in PA especially in rural areas. Libraries are key places for access to equipment such as laptops, hotspots, printers.
- ✚ Libraries are one of the few places to receive free, in-person support on essential technology skills like creating email accounts, creating resumes, and various digital training programs.

### Expenses for library services have increased beyond the capacity to sustain these services.

- ✚ E-book and e-audio demand increased during the pandemic. Due to difficult licensing agreements, libraries need to repurchase these resources every two years, but their costs are 5 times higher than a hardback book.
- ✚ Fees to libraries for providing interlibrary loan services almost doubled going into 2024. Many library locations have cut or will now limit patron use of this service.
- ✚ 85% of PA public libraries are non-profits who fundraise for up to 80% of their **annual operating** budgets. Fundraising during our current economy is not yielding the same revenue and purchasing power.
- ✚ The majority of library workers are part-time employees. Non-profit libraries can't offer competitive wage rates and retain staff when funding is flat or losing ground.

### Libraries power literacy and our communities!

- ✚ The current state budget line for the Public Library Subsidy is \$70.47 million. We thank the General Assembly for an increase in 2022-2023, and stable funding last year. However, we are still working to restore the previous funding level of more than \$75 million in 2001 and 2008.

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