



Public libraries are asking for an increase of \$6.2 million to the public library subsidy.

Currently, the subsidy is \$70.47 million.

With more than 4 million library card holders, the current funding is roughly \$17 per library card holder.

Libraries encourage reading and lifelong learning, with essential access to resources.

- ✚ Reading materials from books, e-books, and audiobooks for all ages are free with a public library card.
- ✚ Homeschool and cyber study families are frequent users of public libraries for both reading and teaching materials and community spaces.
- ✚ Adults sometimes use electronic library materials as their primary access without going into the physical library space. Subscriptions such as Libby and Hoopla are costly but make reading items more accessible.
- ✚ Seniors often use the library space both for reading, but also as a vital social connection to others through programs and activities. Homebound seniors have access to delivery of library materials through mail or outreach programs depending on their local library services.
- ✚ Technology support is heavily used at libraries and ranges from computers, Wi-Fi, hotspots, and databases such as NewsBank (free newspaper access), and Ancestry.com, all with helpful library staff.

The need for public libraries is great, but funding cuts mean less hours open, less materials.

- ✚ Total library operating revenue from all sources DROPPED almost \$2.5 million from 2022 to 2023.
- ✚ Electronic collections were cut by 10% in the last year, but demand increased by 14%!
- ✚ Free library cards are available to residents of communities that support libraries through local donors and municipal support. If a community doesn't contribute to free library access for its residents, an annual subscription fee may be charged to a family or individual. Quite simply – a free public community library is not guaranteed for all PA residents.

Since 2011, our PA Forward® initiative recognizes:

Literacy is POWER, libraries provide the fuel!

- ✚ Literacy starts with reading – and often that starts at the public library! Will you please add \$1.55 per library card holder (\$6.2 million) so we can sustain libraries and reading materials in Pennsylvania?

Questions? Christi Buker, Executive Director, christi@palibraries.org, 717-766-7663.