



# **Library Operating Aid** ***Budget Request : \$147.1M***

## **What is Library Operating Aid?**

- Funds that are allocated each year within the New York State budget for use by each library type and system. State aid goes to support eBook access, interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation, and other resource sharing activities.

## **Why is Library Operating Aid Important?**

- By financially supporting the work of libraries and library systems to effectively leverage resources through shared services, operating aid enables individual libraries to serve their patrons in ways that would be largely impossible to provide independently.

## **Where Are We Now?**

- New York State Education Law calls for ***\$104.6M*** in State Library Aid for FY 2024-2025.
- *Since the program's inception in FY 1991 – 1992, State Library Aid has been underfunded by over \$200 million relative to what is statutory under New York State Education Law.*
- *Over \$150 million of underfunding has occurred in the past 15 years alone.*
- Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.
- Operational costs have sharply increased in recent years - continued flat funding will seriously threaten the ability of libraries and library systems to serve their patrons at current levels.

## **Where should we be?**

- *The New York Library Association requests increasing operational aid to \$147.1 million* to expand collections via subscriptions and e-titles, the retain new staff, and create comprehensive programming for beginners and advanced learners.
- Boosting aid levels will assist communities by offsetting future local tax levy increases.
- If fully funded, libraries and their staff can expand their reach to ensure all New Yorkers are confident, digital stewards through media literacy programs.

