State Aid to Libraries Talking Points

BACKGROUND

The State Aid to Public Libraries Act 89 of 1977 was enacted to supplement local and federal fund sources for libraries in Michigan.

Each fiscal year, the state appropriation process establishes the amount for State Aid. The Library of Michigan, housed in the Department of Education (MDE), administers State Aid to Public Libraries (State Aid). The Statutory formula for State Aid grants is based mainly on the state’s population and paid based on per capita rates, changes in the state's population alter the appropriation necessary to fully fund grant awards.

Public libraries in Michigan are generally funded through three primary sources of revenue: Penal fines, Millages and State Aid. While millages generally make up the largest percentage of a libraries budget, penal fines and state aid make up about 3-6% and they are critical sources of funds that contribute to the important work that libraries perform. In 2021, the legislature appropriated $15,067,700.

Another budget year is underway for FY23. It is critical to keep our legislators informed of what you are doing, how this increase has helped you, and what your library means to your community!

TALKING POINTS

The Michigan library community thanks the Michigan Legislature for increasing State Aid to Public Libraries by $2 million in 2022 and continues to request additional investment in public libraries.

State aid helps libraries continue their mission to provide education, training and resources to Michigan residents.

Every Michigan resident needs convenient and timely access to the world of information — print, digital and electronic.

In 2021, MLA and our library champions, were instrumental in advocating for an increase of $2
Million for distribution in 2022 – equaling $15.1 Million dollars. This equates to approximately 50 cents per capita that Act 89 of 1977 specified, but we are still a long way away and must continue to advocate for the funding increases that make our libraries innovative and essential in today’s world.

An educated society deserves access to unbiased, accurate information not always available on the “open Internet.”

The statewide network of nearly 400 library systems provides these services to Michigan’s residents.

To continue to provide the innovative and critical services their communities need and demand, Michigan libraries need broadened and secured strategic investments.