



## MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

### STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

**The Michigan library community thanks the Michigan Legislature for increasing State Aid to Public Libraries by \$1 million in 2021 and continues to request additional investment in public libraries.**

State aid helps close to 400 library systems 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.

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

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

### BACKGROUND

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

State Aid to Public Libraries Act 89 of 1977 specifies an allotment of \$.50 per capita.

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 are 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 2019, the legislature appropriated \$12,067,700 which equaled about 35.5 cents per capita.

In 2020, MLA and our library champions, were instrumental in advocating for an increase of \$1 Million for distribution in 2021.

The new total for FY 21, about \$13.1 Million dollars -- equals 43 cents per capita. While we are getting closer to the allotted 50 cents per capita that Act 89 of 1977 specified, we are still a long way away and must continue to advocate for the resources that make our libraries innovative and essential in today’s world.

It must be noted that with these recent increases, our legislators, on both sides of the aisle, absolutely know the importance and value of libraries in their communities.