

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.

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.

But 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.

Another budget year is underway for FY22 – another challenging year due to the coronavirus. 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 \$1 million in 2021 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.

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.

Current funding, 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, fully funding State aid would provide libraires with needed financial resources.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Thank you and the entire Michigan legislature for increasing State Aid to Libraries by \$1 million for FY21. We know that this was a tight budget year, so this critical increase was even more significant.

The nearly 400 public library systems in Michigan pivoted quickly to a new reality in 2020 due to the global pandemic and have been innovative in the delivery of their services, especially to children with online storytimes and grab-and-go kits.

We have boosted our WiFi from our parking lots (now available 24/7), purchased more eBook content, pushed Michigan citizen's virtually to fill out the 2020 Census to achieve a full count, and provided reference services via phone from our remote offices. In all 83 Michigan counties, libraries continue to work closely and cooperatively with community organizations to address COVID-19 challenges.

[Add your stories!]

With this increase, we know that you have put a high value on the vital services that our library provides in our community.

Please fully fund State Aid to Libraries. This funding source is essential to providing needed resources and services for our communities.

We guarantee that we will continue our activities that make our community the thriving and dynamic place our citizens want to live, work and visit.

Thank you again,

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

@yourlegislator Thank you for supporting public libraries by supporting funding State Aid in FY21! Michigan’s public libraries rely on these funds to serve Michigan communities Please continue to support funding for libraries! #MILibrariesDay #LoveMILibraries

Michigan libraries provide education, training and resources to our communities.
@yourlegislator please continue to invest in libraries and fully fund State Aid to Libraires in
FY22! #LoveMILibraries #MILibrariesDay