$1 Million Increase in State Aid for Libraries for FY 21

September 23, 2020

Our voices have been heard!

Our advocacy efforts (yours, mine, and ours) have paid off!

We did it!

The library community has been rewarded with a $1 million increase to the FY21 State Aid for Libraries.

This kind of increase takes determination, time, and lots of hard work...For the past few years, we asked for an increase. A year ago, we were hopeful that our legislative leaders would add this as a supplemental as the budget “season” dragged on. This year, in the midst of dramatic budget cuts throughout our state – caused by a global pandemic and worsening economic challenges – we were hopeful to remain flat. But that certainly isn't the case!

As of September 23, Michigan legislators voted to approve the FY21 State Budget with an increase in State Aid to Libraries of $1 million GF/GP for a total of $13,067,700. Other line items for the Library of Michigan – 33 FTE - $4.9M, Michigan eLibrary - $1.7M (the MeL GF was cut by about $32,000), and Library Services and Technology Programs - $5.6M have remained somewhat similar to past year’s budgets with general increases to staff salaries, Governor Whitmer is expected to sign this budget into law in the coming days and it will become effective on October 1, 2020. The Governor's office issued a press release yesterday evening stating: "The Michigan Legislature and the administration of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer have worked together to put the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in place that will soon become law. It is a budget that funds shared priorities such as education, economic development, public health, public safety, and the environment."
View the [FY2020-2021 General Omnibus Budget](#). The Library of Michigan budget appropriations can be found on page 104-105.

### Major Budget Changes From FY2019-2020 YTD Appropriations

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#### State Aid to Libraries

Increases state aid to libraries by $1.0 million GF/GP to a total of $13.1 million.

- GF/GP: $12,067,700
- $1,000,000
- $1,000,000

Our message over the years has resonated and we are thankful every time you contact your legislators by picking up the phone, writing a note, sharing an email, inviting them to read a story or hold their coffee hours at your library, and/or responding to an MLA call to action. They absolutely know the importance and value of libraries in their communities.

Advocacy happens year-round – now is not the time to let up. The Governor and our legislators will begin to quickly get their priorities in place and another cycle will be underway to develop the FY22 budget – another challenging year due to the coronavirus. It will be even more critical in the next 6 months to keep our legislators informed of what you are doing, how this increase has helped you, and what your library means to your community.

Take time today – **RIGHT THIS MINUTE** to thank your Senator, your House Member, and the Governor. You can find your legislators and send an email using the form embedded below. We’ve created a quick thank you template if you need it, but feel free to personalize and share your heartfelt appreciation.