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State Aid to Public Libraries: Increase funding to \$33 million

FLA seeks to restore State Aid funding levels to at least \$33,000,000, which would begin to bring the State's support for library services more in line with historic levels. This will help ensure our libraries are able to rebuild staffing levels and services to levels that benefit our residents.

Background

Public Libraries that receive State Aid to Public Libraries funding invest approximately \$535 million annually in delivering library services to the public.

The state of Florida must meet the IMLS "Maintenance of Effort" of \$21,437,987 for 2019 in order to receive Federal grant money for programs and services, administered through the Division of Library & Information Services.

The State's investment of \$20.5 million in 2018 (which was a \$2.5 million decrease from 2017) represents a mere 4% of what local governments typically invest in overall library expenditures (detailed expenditure report available).

The Department of State's 2019 budget outlined \$4,994,762 in nonrecurring General fund authority and an additional \$17,304,072 in recurring General Fund authority (\$22,298,834 total), but, an increase to State Aid funding would allow a level of equity in service provision throughout the state and bring Florida's investment in Libraries back to historic levels that topped \$33,400,000 between 2000 - 2002.

Florida's population has grown significantly since 2000 from approximately 16 million to over 21 million people in 2019.

MLA Citation: Florida Population. (2018-11-30). Retrieved 2019-02-07, from <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/florida/>



Public Library Construction: Appropriate funding of \$11,250,000

Support HB 2345 East Lake Library Branch Expansion, Rep. Latvala
Support HB 3097 Brockway Memorial Library North Expansion, Rep. Joseph
Support HB 3153 Winter Park Public Library & Events Center, Rep. Eskamani

FLA seeks support from the State of Florida to fully fund the twenty-three (23) applications that have been deemed eligible for Public Library Construction Grant funding in 2019-2020.

Background

This locally matched funding helps create local jobs, demonstrates local investment in our libraries, and provides for new library construction, renovations, and critical infrastructure improvements to ensure the vitality of libraries in our communities.

During the 2018 session, the Senate proposed \$8.5 million for Library Construction Grants, while the House took a lower position. Ultimately at the conclusion of conference, both the House and Senate made no appropriation for Library Construction grants.



Innovation Grant Program: Appropriate Funding of \$2,000,000

FLA supports the establishment of a competitive grant program for innovative library services administered by the Division of Library and Information Services (DLIS).

Background

With these funds, libraries can develop new service delivery models and programs that incorporate workforce readiness, economic development support, STEM learning, and community engagement spaces.

In 2013, Senator Jeff Brandes (R) – Pinellas County, filed a bill (SB 608) that would have created a library innovation grant program but died in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee. In 2017, Senator Brandes again proposed that the Legislature include \$3 million in the budget for the Library Technology Grant Program that was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed (line item 3127) by then Governor Rick Scott.



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Multi-Type Library Cooperatives(MLCs): Appropriate \$3,000,000

We thank you for funding this important program in 2018. FLA supports the recurring appropriation of \$3,000,000 to fund the Library Cooperative Grant Program to support Florida's five multitype library cooperatives.

Background

MLCs reduce costs for libraries by facilitating resource sharing between libraries, providing training for over 16,000 library staff annually. These funds maintain Florida's online database of library collections, making resource sharing possible through interlibrary loan, and, services such as Ask-A-Librarian and Florida Library Jobs are available for use by libraries throughout the State of Florida.



Support HB 3317 Smart Horizons Online High School: Appropriate \$2,000,000

Support HB 3317 Online Workforce-Based Adult High School Program for State of Florida Library System - Smart Horizons Career Online High School **[Rep. Latvala]**

We thank you for funding this important program in 2018. FLA supports continued funding for this program that allows 19-and-older, out-of-school adults to complete a private high school diploma and career certificate through 38 participating public library systems.

Background

This program makes a high school diploma more accessible to Floridians and prepares them for success in the workforce. As of January 2019, more than 500 students had graduated and an additional 254 students are actively working on their coursework.

Despite receiving a veto in 2017, the appropriation survived the Governor's budget vetoes for 2018 fiscal year.



State University and College Libraries: Increase FALSC Funding to \$8,473,107

We thank you for funding this important program in 2018. FLA supports increased funding for library e-resources for all State University System (SUS) and Florida College System (FCS) libraries through the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC).

Background

Academic libraries are essential for student success, faculty research, and accreditation. E-resources are a cornerstone of affordable education. Student success depends on access to high quality, scholarly e-resources across all academic disciplines. It is essential that funding for them be increased as costs rise.

Since 2012, the costs for e-resources have risen at an average annual rate of 3% while the state appropriation has remained flat. This budget gap has resulted in the loss of 27 database packages, representing a loss of access to millions of scholarly articles and other academic resources for SUS and FCS students.

An increase of \$1,620,091 will enable FALSC to acquire essential content on the behalf of all SUS and FCS institutions.

