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Subject: [nyla-members] NYLA Legislative Alert - Budget Update

To: This electronic discussion list serves members of the New York Library Association <nyla-members@lm.nyla-omc.org>

The 2008-09 State Budget has both good news and bad news for libraries. First, the good news is that the \$5 million cut in Library Aid proposed by the Governor was restored. The budget also continues the \$14 million in public library construction aid. The bad news is that the Division of Budget imposed a 2% across the board cut in many, but not all, state funded programs. Meaning overall Library Aid will be \$2 million less than last year. It does not make much sense (I know), but nothing much does here.

I do want to thank everyone who advocated on behalf of library funding this year, because without your efforts the final numbers could have been alot worse given the state's worsening fiscal situation. Special thanks to Kathy Miller, our Legislative Committee Chair and our friends in the Legislature - Senators Hugh Farley and Stephen Saland and Assemblymembers Amy Paulin and Cathy Nolan. I will keep you posted as further information becomes available.

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