

The recent report *Local Libraries Advancing Community Goals, 2016*, highlights the outcome of a national survey of chief administrative offices of local governments conducted by The Aspen Institute in partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Public Library Association (PLA). It focused on the evolving role of public libraries in advancing community goals and explored how public libraries and governmental agencies could partner to better engage, inform and empower residents within their communities.

The government leaders recognized public libraries as playing an important role in addressing these top five community priorities:

- **ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE**
- **DIGITAL LITERACY**
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
- **PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTAINMENT**
- **ONLINE/VIRTUAL LEARNING**

**LIBRARIES
CAN PLAY AN
IMPORTANT
ROLE**

WESTCHESTER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK with 773 public access terminals
2015 STATS: Over 1 Million users & sessions

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS offered at all 38 Westchester sites
2015 STATS: 773 1-on-1 sessions

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS including Summer Reading Games & Storytimes
2015 STATS: 20,238 programs with 426,092 in attendance

HSE CONNECT! -- a program that assists adults working towards their high school equivalency diploma with volunteer tutors who cover the basics in reading, writing and math. Offered at 6 library sites in Greenburgh, Mount Kisco, New Rochelle, Port Chester-Rye Brook, White Plains, and Yonkers.
2015 STATS: 712 served

ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS available: Lynda.com; University of Fashion; Language Learning
2015 STATS: 1,731 Lynda.com users viewed 3,822 hours of videos; completed 603 courses



westchester
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Empowering libraries. Empowering communities.

**New York State Legislature
Westchester Delegation
Library Advocacy Day 2017
TALKING POINTS**



GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR NYS FISCAL YEAR 2017-18

FACTS:

- \$91.6 Million for Library Aid
 - **0% increase** from that proposed last year
 - **4% decrease** from the actual amount included in the enacted 2016-17 budget
 - **11% less** than what is legally required by Education Law (\$102.6 Million)
 - **0% increase** in Education Law requirements since 2007-08 (despite 1.56% inflation)
- \$14 Million for Public Library Construction Grant Program
 - **26% decrease** from the \$19 Million included with the enacted 2016-17 budget
 - WLS's 2016 Construction Grant submitted projects had a total cost of \$5.4 Million; yet WLS's allocation = \$888,790
- **4.7% increase in Education funding vs. 0% increase for Library Aid**—even though libraries are educational institutions chartered by the same Board of Regents and administered by the State's Education Department

LIBRARIES & LIBRARY SYSTEMS ARE MODELS OF SHARED SERVICES

FACTS:

- Westchester Library System (WLS), one of the 23 library systems in NYS, provides economies of scale by centralizing services for libraries vs. each library providing and paying for the same services individually.
- Local communities realize \$7 in services for every \$1 allocated in State aid (according to the State Education Department)
- WLS's infrastructure network alone translates to the following values:
 - Online Integrated Library System = **\$8.9 Million**
 - Wired & Wireless Network = **\$3.65 Million**
 - Public Access/Staff PCs [total of 773 countywide] = **\$1.8 Million**