

LIBRARIES LEAD

WHAT IS LIBRARY AID?

The majority of Library Aid goes to support the State’s public library systems, which were established in 1958 by State Education Law. The Westchester Library System (WLS) is one of New York State’s 23 public library systems. As a cooperative system, the libraries in Westchester achieve greater cost-savings and provide expanded levels of service that would prove difficult for independent, stand-alone libraries.

WHAT’S INCLUDED IN NYS BUDGET FY2018-19?

- **\$91.6 Million for Public Library Aid** included in Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget—**4% DECREASE** over 2017/18 enacted budget amount; **\$14 Million** included for **Public Library Construction Aid—\$10 Million DECREASE** over 2017/18 enacted budget amount
- **\$102.6 Million** is the amount required for Public Library Aid according to the formulas outlined in Education Law-- **approximately 6% below** what is currently proposed.
- **Prices in 2017 are 12% higher** than prices in 2010 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics— inflation would bring the \$102.6 Million to **\$115 Million**.

HOW DO WESTCHESTER LIBRARIES LEAD IN SAVINGS?

LIBRARIES	SAVINGS [based on 2016 statistics]
Link people to various resources and are critical for access and equality	\$13 Million The local public library is the primary source of Internet access for 25% of households making less than \$50,000 annually [1,138,144 computer use sessions @ \$12/session]
A core component of NYS’s Educational infrastructure and provider of resources to supplement traditional learning	\$400,000 WLS centrally purchases databases—such as Lynda.com; Morningstar, Tumblebooks—which saves the libraries from having to purchase them individually [amount spent by WLS in 2016]
Activate imaginations & creativity through innovative programs for library users and professional development for library staff	\$7.5 Million Libraries program early literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and digital literacy [681,519 people attended programs @ \$11/person]
Drive economies of scale and model shared services	\$573 Million Local communities realize \$7 in services for every \$1 allocated in State Library Aid [according to the most recent statistics from the State Education Department]