PaLA

Pennsylvania
Library
Association

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A Chapter of the American Library Association

Pennsylvania libraries are amazing institutions that need YOUR help!

They operate with a combination of local and state support, donations, and fundraising for operational budgets.

The GOOD, and what libraries do beyond books:

We have 456 public libraries with 629 outlets that include branches and bookmobiles that serve all ages – more than **43%** of Pennsylvanians are registered users of libraries!

Birth to Kindergarten resources and programs provide **early education** for children, parents, AND caregivers including childcare center professional and teacher resources!   The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten programs in libraries across the state are focused on generating a love of reading and developing literacy in our children and families.

2015 Public Library Funding Sources

- Fundraising/Donations/Fines, 16.9%
- Federal Revenue, 0.5%
- State Revenue, 15.9%
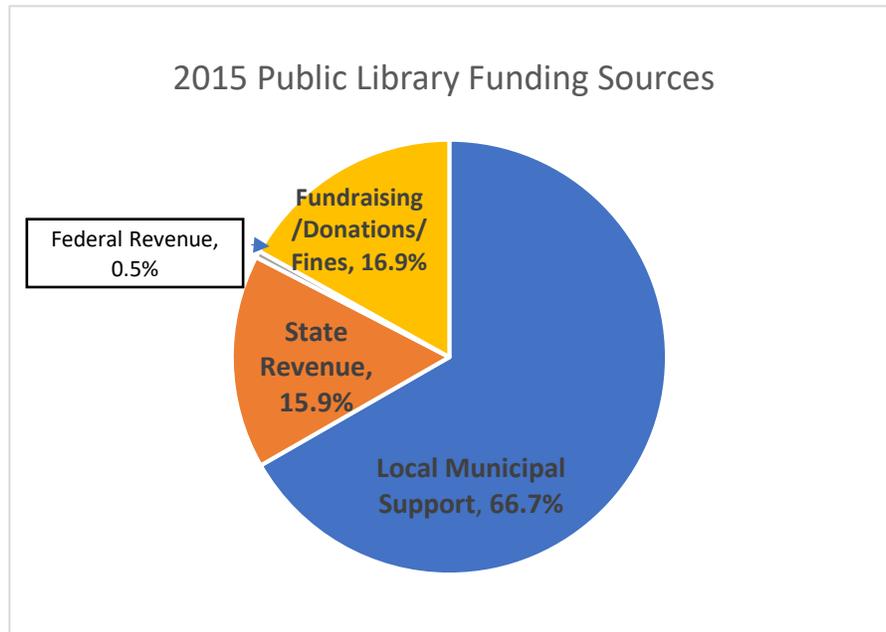- Local Municipal Support, 66.7%

Everything from how to sign-up for Medicare, CHIP (children's health insurance program) enrollment, healthy eating, and smoking cessation programs are just a few of the **health programs** offered at libraries.

In a March 2018 survey of public libraries, 94% report offering **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs and equipment. From chemistry, Lego building, robotics clubs, 3D printers, digital production equipment including cameras, microphones, software, to coding for girls – all this at libraries!

100% of public libraries offer **internet and computer access** with more than 8,041 web access computers. In rural areas like Sullivan County, 69% of the population doesn't have access to fixed, advanced telecommunications. This doesn't even consider the *affordability* of internet service.

Libraries aren't stand-alone institutions. 61% of libraries surveyed in 2017 reported **workforce-related partnerships**. Resume creation software, job search assistance, and test proctoring services are provided daily.

Professional librarians with master's degrees and staff provide much-needed support for literacy and quality services. Google may give you millions of answers, but librarians will help you find what you want! Evening and weekend hours, community meeting rooms, and convenient locations all contribute to libraries being true **community centers**.
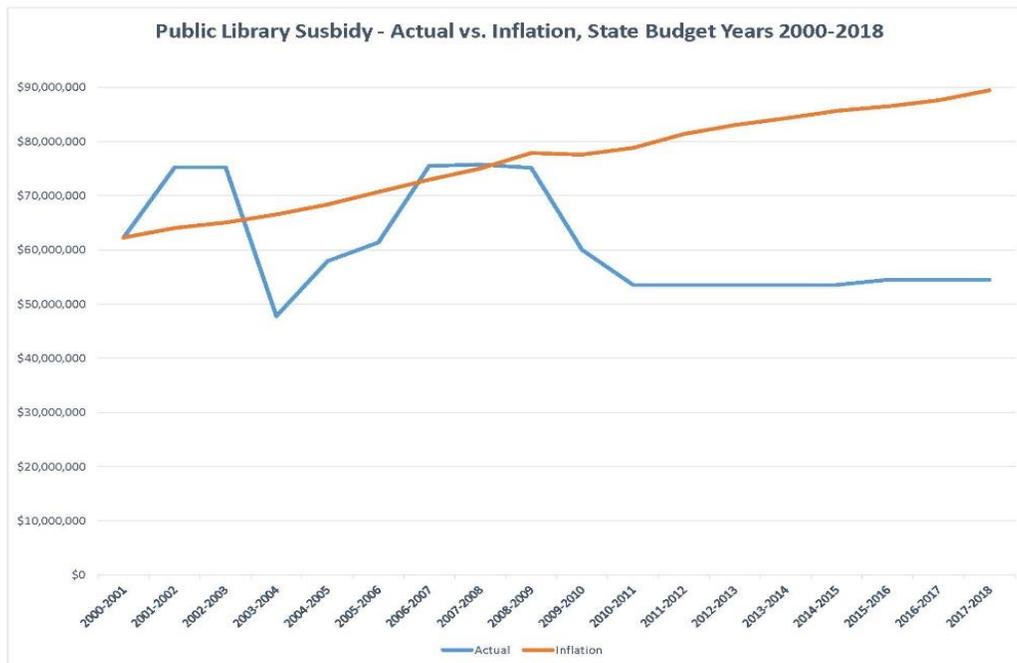
The BAD, library funding has been stagnant:

Approximately 85% of public libraries are 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. With the lack of stable and sustainable funding, often libraries must fundraise to cover salaries and basic operations.

In fact, according to 2015 Pennsylvania Library Statistics, look at these operating figures:

State Summary for 2015:	Revenue	Expenditures
Mean (excludes Philadelphia/Pittsburgh)	$749,093	$741,952
MEDIAN	$199,962	$208,992
# libraries below mean (out of 473)	398	400

On average, these libraries are still open 48 hours per week, even with such small operating budgets!

Public Library Susbidy - Actual vs. Inflation, State Budget Years 2000-2018

The POSSIBLE:
Increased investment is critical and will begin to restore state library funding to a place that affords some stability and supports advancement in learning, literacy and community for all ages.

After cuts of 20%, and 9%, and funding at the same level since 2010,
we are asking to restore funding:
2019 – increase the public library subsidy by $11.28 million.
2020 – increase the public library subsidy by $9.57 million.

For more information, contact Christi Buker, executive director, christi@palibraries.org or 717-766-7663.

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