

From the Director...

Update on Library Funding, May 2017

I want to share information with you about the present status of funding for Ohio's public libraries. Every two years, the governor introduces his budget proposal and state funding for public libraries is considered through the Public Library Fund (PLF). The PLF is closely considered by the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate before the entire budget bill passes and is put into effect on June 30. The state budget proposal currently being debated reduces the PLF from 1.7% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) to 1.66% of the GRF.

This reduction along with other changes in the bill could have a substantial impact on public libraries. While a .04% decrease may not seem like much, in terms of state dollars it amounts to a minimum \$16.6 million cut (4.3% reduction in funding from FY17). In March, representatives from [insert your library name] met with state legislators to ask that state funding for public libraries be maintained at the current 1.7% of the GRF and not be cut.

A few weeks ago, the Ohio House passed their version of the bill and, unfortunately, library funding was not restored to the current levels and remains at the 1.66% proposal. The bill now moves to the Ohio Senate for consideration and [insert your library name] is asking for your voice. If you have a story about how the public library has affected your life, would you consider sending an email or letter to your state Senator asking them to not cut public library funding? Find your Senator using the tools at www.ohiosenate.gov and use the contact form to email, call or send a letter to the office.

Ohio's public libraries have the highest use per capita in the entire nation. We are also incredible stewards of taxpayer dollars. For every \$1 spent by Ohio's public libraries, more than \$5 in economic value is returned to Ohioans. We know that Ohioans value their public libraries. Please tell the Ohio Senate what [insert your library name] means to you.

Thank you again for your support,