

From the Director...

Update on Library Funding

This year is like no other and the [insert your library name] is continuing to improve, expand and provide new resources to benefit our communities during these challenging times. History tells us that in periods of crisis, people rely on their local libraries more than ever. We are here and ready to help create stability and a sense of normalcy in the lives of [insert your service area] residents.

We are very appreciative here at the [insert your library name] for the support we receive from our patrons through state funding [insert % of revenues from state funding], our local levy [if applicable, insert % of revenues from local levy], and your generous donations to our Foundation and/or Friends Group [if applicable, insert % of revenues from Foundations and/or Friends Group]. We would not be able to serve you at the current level without your support.

I want to share information with you about the present status of funding for Ohio's public libraries. At the state level, we are fortunate to be funded through the Public Library Fund (PLF) which receives a percentage of the state's tax revenues from the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Revenue sources for the GRF include the state personal income tax, sales and use tax, business taxes, etc.

The PLF is currently set at 1.7% of the GRF, but it will be automatically reduced to 1.66% on July 1, 2021. This will cut state funding for all of Ohio's public libraries.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic activity in Ohio has slowed considerably which in turn has depressed GRF tax revenues. As a result, libraries have seen and will continue to see a reduction in PLF funding.

The Ohio Library Council (OLC) is working with Ohio's public libraries to educate members of the Ohio General Assembly and those that will be elected in November on the status of our state funding. We know that Ohioans value their public libraries and recognize the ways in which public libraries create opportunities and transform lives. We will be working with the OLC during the next several months to retain essential state funding for Ohio's public libraries. I will keep you posted with updates as we work through the process.

Thank you again for your support. It is an honor to serve the [insert your service area] community.