

Ohio Libraries Respond Talking Points

Funding libraries in Ohio is essential

Ohio's Public Library Fund (PLF) is based on monthly state General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax revenues. In FY2020 and FY2021, the PLF receives 1.7% of GRF tax revenues each month. If not addressed by the legislature in next year's biennial budget, the PLF will revert to 1.66%.

As a result of 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 a reduction in PLF distribution amounts. This loss of funding has impacted the ability for local libraries to continue to provide enhanced vital services that are sought out by Ohioans during these difficult times. To reduce costs, many libraries have had to make the difficult decision to layoff or furlough staff in addition to other cost reduction measures.

- *Provide a list of cost saving decisions your library has had to make.*
- *Provide an analysis of your library revenues and expenditures between March – current. How much has your library spent on preparations for reopening? How much have you spent on PPE?*
- *Thank legislators for the 18.3 million dollars of CARES Act funding to assist libraries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let them know how this money was spent.*

Ohio Libraries offer a significant return on investment of public dollars

- *Share that Ohio has the highest library usage per capita in the nation and that more than 8.4 million Ohioans are library cardholders.*
- *Use OLC's ROI calculator to measure the ROI for your public library to share with your local legislator to help them understand the library's economic value to your community.*

Ohio's public libraries provide crucial services, even during a pandemic

- *Highlight and share important resources offered by your library such as partnerships with schools and local governments, investment in technology, and expansion of WiFi access to get people connected.*

Libraries respond to the educational needs of their communities

- *Provide examples of how your library is collaborating with your local school systems.*
- *Provide examples of how your library is providing technology assistance to your community.*
- *Provide examples of how your library is assisting parents/guardians with remote learning or homeschooling.*

Libraries play a vital role in recovery efforts

Impacted workers and businesses are relying on library services to search and apply for jobs, develop business plans, navigate economic assistance, and learn new career skills.

- *Share real life examples of how your library is helping individuals with job search assistance, technology tutoring, unemployment assistance, and learning new job skills.*