

Public Library Fund (PLF) Talking Points

We appreciate Gov. DeWine's commitment in supporting Ohio's public libraries through the PLF. However, the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Executive Budget cuts state funding to Ohio's public libraries by reducing the PLF from 1.7% to 1.66% of the General Revenue Fund.

Investing in Ohio's public libraries is critical as the usage and demand for our services is growing – especially as we begin to recover from the pandemic.

We are urging legislators to:

- Make public libraries a priority in this budget
- Maintain PLF funding at current levels (1.7%)
- Hold public libraries harmless from any additional reductions in state funding

The OLC's goal is to preserve the PLF at 1.7% and maintain critical funding for Ohio's libraries.

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 Return on Investment \(ROI\) calculator](#) to measure the ROI for your library and share with your local legislators 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.
- Share how your library has invested in technology and expanded WiFi access to get people connected.
- Share how your library adapted services this past year (launching virtual programs, expanding digital collections, etc.).

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.
- Share real life examples of how your library is helping small businesses with access to office equipment, meeting space (or virtual meetings), market research, an online business courses.