



# Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Fund: 7000-9101

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, (MBLC) is the agency of state government that works to organize, develop, coordinate, and improve library services throughout the Commonwealth. Since its inception, the MBLC has worked to ensure outstanding library service for all citizens of the Commonwealth. The work continues today through innovative and collaborative library services that provide equal access to all and helps communities save money.

## Why the MBLC is Important

The MBLC's programs, services, and leadership ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth regardless of their geographic location, social or economic status, age, level of physical or intellectual ability, or cultural background have access to information and resources that can change lives. Whether it's the statewide system of resource sharing, our support for technology in libraries, digital resources like eBooks and databases, the library construction program, summer reading program, digitization and preservation or grants to help immigrants, pre-k children, seniors, teens, prisoners, job seekers, and people with disabilities, the MBLC paves the way so that libraries can meet the needs of their local residents and that all people can thrive.

## How a Lack of Funding has Affected the MBLC

- Statewide research databases have been cut reducing the amount of information available to Massachusetts residents.
- Staffing costs have been shifted to programs in order to keep them operating at an acceptable level.

## What the MBLC would do with Increased Funding

- Increase advisory and outreach services to library directors, staff, trustees and Friends in order to build their capacity to meet the library and information needs of MA residents.
- Increase staff support for grants for innovative programs and services at libraries.
- Shift staffing costs back to our administrative line so funding can be focused solely on supporting key programs including resource sharing and construction.

## Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP)

### A New Capital Improvement Bond is Needed

The MBLC is requesting \$250 million in new bond funding for this successful program. Without it 18 projects that are currently on the MPLCP waitlist will not be funded. The funding will also be used for a future Planning and Design grant round and a new Construction grant round.

### Raise the Annual Cap

If the annual capital budget for the MPLCP stays at \$20 million the last project on the waiting listed will be funded in 2028, completed in 2033. The longer a community goes without being able to start its project, the higher the construction costs will be. The MBLC is asking to raise the cap to \$25 million starting in FY 2020 to shorten the process.