



# Local Aid for Public Libraries

**7000-9501** State Aid to Public Libraries

**The MBLC is requesting an increase of \$2 million to support the vital State Aid to Public Libraries Program.**

### State Aid to Public Libraries:

Guarantees **access to 59 million items** from across the state for residents whose library is certified in the program (reciprocal borrowing). Resident borrowing from libraries outside their local community has increased 30% in the last decade.

**Saves money;** for example, Pittsfield residents were able to borrow more than 27,000 items from other libraries because the library is State Aid certified\*. If the library had to purchase these items it would cost an estimated \$270,000.

Can be **used in any way that supports library services.**



### Local Impact

“I use this as the primary funding of my materials budget— I ALWAYS need more”.

*-Nora Blake, Director, Emily Williston Memorial Library and Museum, Easthampton*

“State Aid to Public Libraries is a great equalizer among communities, allowing us to expand beyond our local budget appropriations”.

*-Joe Rodio, Director, South Hadley Public Library*

“We have used it for many things that the town will not fund—such as replacing all of our computers this past year. This is the most important line item to my library”.

*-Nanci Milone Hill, Director, Moses Greeley Parker Library, Dracut*

### Local Burden

Even though public libraries form a statewide network of services for all residents, lack of state aid funding shifts the funding obligation disproportionately onto individual municipalities.

### FY2018 Total Operating Income for Massachusetts Libraries

- ◆ Total Appropriated Municipal Income – 87.51%
- ◆ Total State Aid Operating Income – 2.55%
- ◆ Other Operating Income – 9.94%



**State Funding (7000-9501)** ↓.5% since 2001.  
**Municipal Funding** ↑ 38% during the same period.

**FY2021 Legislative Agenda** [Learn more at mass.gov/mblc](http://mass.gov/mblc)

\*Libraries apply annually to be certified in the State Aid to Public Libraries program. They must meet minimum standards, including the Municipal Appropriation Requirement. About 98% of public libraries participate in this voluntary program.



# FY2021 MBLC Budget Request

Line Item	High	FY 2020	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 Increase Over FY 2020
<b>7000-9101</b> Board of Library Commissioners	Current Year	\$1,322,130	\$1,579,876	\$257,746
<b>7000-9401</b> State Aid to Regional Libraries (Massachusetts Library System - MLS)  (Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library- LFC)	\$17,623,954 (FY 2002)	\$11,516,000	\$11,861,480	\$345,480
<b>7000-9402</b> Talking Book Library (Worcester)	Current Year	\$468,217	\$482,264	\$14,047
<b>7000-9406</b> Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins)	Current Year	\$2,665,800	\$2,745,774	\$79,974
<b>7000-9501</b> State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,989,844 (FY 2009)	\$10,059,081*	\$12,000,000	\$2,098,919
<b>7000-9506</b> Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Library Networks)	\$4,420,235 (FY 2001)	\$4,259,000	\$4,386,770	\$127,770
<b>7000-9508</b> Mass. Center for the Book	Current Year	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$25,000
		<b>\$30,490,228</b>	<b>\$33,281,164</b>	<b>\$2,948,936</b>
<i>*includes \$158,000 in earmarks</i>				

**Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners**

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