
► *Return on Investment*

In 2007, through the prudent expenditure of local and state dollars, Pennsylvania's public libraries:

- Registered 5.8 million borrowers
- Added 2.9 million new books to their collections
- Circulated 66.4 million books
- Borrowed and loaned 5.9 million books via interlibrary loan
- Opened on Saturdays-some libraries opened on Sundays as well.

► *Other Statewide Initiatives*

Three special programs help to support libraries through the power of statewide purchasing and through resource sharing and cooperation:

The Access Pennsylvania Database, the largest catalog of its kind in the United States, is a statewide catalog of library materials that can be requested on interlibrary loan from academic, public, school and special libraries. It is located on the web at www.accesspa.state.pa.us.

The POWER Library provides access to thousands of full text periodical articles, newspapers, plus photographs, pictures, charts, maps, reference materials for all ages, and is available in the library and at home. Its web address is www.powerlibrary.net.

The Statewide Library Card Program enables Pennsylvania citizens with a library card from a state-aided public library to directly borrow materials from any other state-aided public library in the Commonwealth.

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries also provides an ongoing program of continuing education and support for public library staff and trustees.

For more information contact:

State Aid Administrator
*Office of Commonwealth
Libraries*

333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745
(717) 783-5743



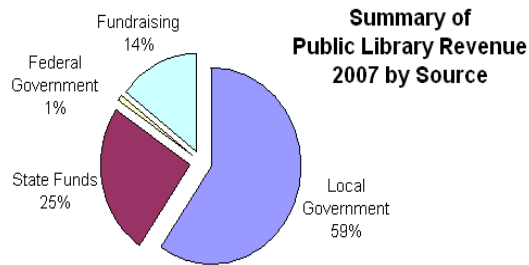
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State Subsidy for Pennsylvania Public Libraries



► *Public Library Funding in Pennsylvania*

Public Libraries in Pennsylvania receive funding from a variety of sources. The three main sources of funding are local government, private fundraising, and state government. The following chart illustrates the percentage of funding Pennsylvania public libraries received, on average, from all sources:



► *State Subsidy to Public Libraries*

The State Subsidy to Public Libraries program is designed to stimulate local financial support of public libraries and to provide a reliable level of quality public library service across the Commonwealth. Local communities are responsible for funding basic library services. Since public libraries are a local initiative in Pennsylvania, the program is based on providing incentives for local financial support of library service. In return, the Commonwealth enters into a funding partnership with the library, augmenting the basic services a library provides through local support. Participation in the State Subsidy program requires a commitment in local funds of \$5.00 per capita of the library's service area population. While those local funds may come from fundraising or from local government, the funding formula emphasizes the importance of local government contributions by leveraging them to maximize the return in state dollars.

Pennsylvania's public libraries have a history of strong local fundraising. In addition, Pennsylvania ranks among the highest of the 50 states in state support for libraries. However, it is in local government support that Pennsylvania ranks in the bottom 10 of the 50 states. The state aid formula is specifically designed to provide an incentive to local governments to increase their financial support to local libraries.

► *Categories of Public Library State Subsidy*

Quality Libraries Aid - supports the general operating budget of a local public library. The payment of these funds is based on the population of the library's direct service area-the population for which the library meets basic standards and for which the library spends a minimum of \$5 per capita in local monies.

Incentive for Excellence Aid - stimulates local support of the library by providing matching funds for libraries spending more than \$5 per capita of local monies.

County Coordination Aid - is paid only to libraries or library systems that receive a direct county appropriation or that receive a special county library tax. A match of state aid funds is paid based on class of county in which the library is located. Priorities for the use of these funds are established by an annual county-level plan of service, and expenditure of the funds is restricted to implementation of the plan.

Other State Aid Categories - "Equal Distribution Grants" are flat sums of money that are paid to each individual library or branch. Equalization aid is paid to libraries serving the most economically distressed communities in the state. In addition, state aid is paid to libraries that serve as resources for other libraries-those designated by the State Librarian as District Center Libraries or named in The Library Code as Statewide Library Resource Centers.

► *Requirements*

Public libraries must spend a minimum of \$5 per capita of local monies to enter the State Subsidy Program. In addition, libraries must meet a set of service standards, which are set out in the Library Code and the Pennsylvania Code. These standards address service aspects such as collection size, hours of service, and staff training and development. An important requirement is maintenance of local effort for those libraries that receive Incentive for Excellence Aid. The annual spending of local dollars must equal or surpass the amount spent in the previous year. Also, local government income cannot decrease from the previous year. These requirements assure that state dollars are not used to replace local dollars.