



163 US Highway 130 N, Building 1, Suite 1C, Bordentown, NJ 08505
(609) 482-1282 | njla.org

FY 2025 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET RESOLUTION REQUEST
APRIL 26, 2024

The New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) is asking the Legislature to restore New Jersey Library Network funding to the FY 2024 level of \$4,299,000 rather than approve the 20% proposed cut for FY 2025 that would reduce it to \$3,439,000. This requires support for Senate Budget Resolution 4150 sponsored by Senator Greenstein and Assembly Budget Resolution 4126 sponsored by Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, restoring \$860,000 for Library Network funding in the FY 2025 budget.

The New Jersey State Library and the state's library network are your library's library. They provide crucial services and infrastructure for every New Jersey's resident. For example, libraries share books and other materials across the state: as a student or community member with a library card, we can go to our library and request to borrow almost any book from almost any library in New Jersey.

The cost of not having this service for a year or two is enormous. The cost of rebuilding it is many times the cost of maintaining it. This is just one aspect of what is at stake if we take a step backward in funding our libraries.

The State Library is the agency that is primarily responsible for securing and administering federal grants for New Jersey's libraries, bringing in multiples more than it costs. These funds help to ensure that New Jersey has fast, reliable internet access. That libraries are conveniently located, modern, and welcoming. That credible information, the building block of democracy, is available to all of us.

An immediate concern: if Library Network funding is not restored, New Jersey's federal funding for libraries is at risk for a reduced award. The allotment is based on a formula and the amount received changes annually. Based on the current federal fiscal year amount, the award would be reduced by about \$527,000 because New Jersey would not meet the Library Services and Technology Act's required Maintenance of Effort.

Federal funds are the sole source of funding for the New Jersey's Talking Book and Braille Center. In addition, federal funds are leveraged with Library Network funds to make the best use of all available resources to best serve New Jersey's residents and their libraries. Funds for each of these programs could take a double hit if the federal funds are reduced along with a reduction in Library Network funds.

The New Jersey Library Association is a 501(c)(3) that provides vision and leadership for the library community and serves as a voice for New Jersey libraries and library workers.



163 US Highway 130 N, Building 1, Suite 1C, Bordentown, NJ 08505
(609) 482-1282 | njla.org

To remain competitive, New Jersey needs its Library Network. We are in danger of falling behind other states and nations that are investing in their libraries. If we are to be leaders in an information age, we need to give our libraries the resources they need to support our students, entrepreneurs, workers, and communities.

The New Jersey Library Association is a 501(c)(3) that provides vision and leadership for the library community and serves as a voice for New Jersey libraries and library workers.