Public libraries are asking for an increase of $2.8 million to the public library subsidy which is 4%.

Libraries are supporting lifelong learning, and access to resources.

Public libraries support educational resources and programs for all ages.
Homeschool and cyber study families are frequent users of public libraries.
Adults and seniors seek library programs to keep their minds engaged, and to find needed social engagement for positive mental health.

Broadband access is still limited in PA especially in rural areas. Libraries are key places for access to equipment such as laptops, hotspots, printers.
Libraries are one of the few places to receive free, in-person support on essential technology skills like creating email accounts, creating resumes, and various digital training programs.

Expenses for library services have increased beyond the capacity to sustain these services.

E-book and e-audio demand increased during the pandemic. Due to difficult licensing agreements, libraries need to repurchase these resources every two years, but their costs are 5 times higher than a hardback book.
Fees to libraries for providing interlibrary loan services almost doubled going into 2024. Many library locations have cut or will now limit patron use of this service.
85% of PA public libraries are non-profits who fundraise for up to 80% of their annual operating budgets. Fundraising during our current economy is not yielding the same revenue and purchasing power.
The majority of library workers are part-time employees. Non-profit libraries can’t offer competitive wage rates and retain staff when funding is flat or losing ground.

Libraries power literacy and our communities!

The current state budget line for the Public Library Subsidy is $70.47 million. We thank the General Assembly for an increase in 2022-2023, and stable funding last year. However, we are still working to restore the previous funding level of more than $75 million in 2001 and 2008.

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