

# State Aid for Libraries in New York

New York State  
**Library**

January 2024

Presentation to the Board of Regents

# About the New York State Library

- Established by the Legislature in 1818.
- Collections contain more than 20 million items.
- Supports the research needs of state workforce and researchers around the world.

Regent Joseph E. Bowman Jr. Research Library



- Partnership between the National Library Service, the New York State Library, and US Postal Service.
- Provides braille and audio books by mail or digitally to any eligible New Yorker.

Talking Book and Braille Library



- Extension services providing continuing education, consultation, and technical assistance
- Statewide library services such as NOVELny, Summer Reading, Every Child Ready to Read, and the Digital Equity Roundtable.
- Administers more than \$100 million in State Aid to Libraries and \$35 million State Aid for Library Construction

Division of Library Development



# How the NYS Library is Funded

---

Cultural Education Fund (State)

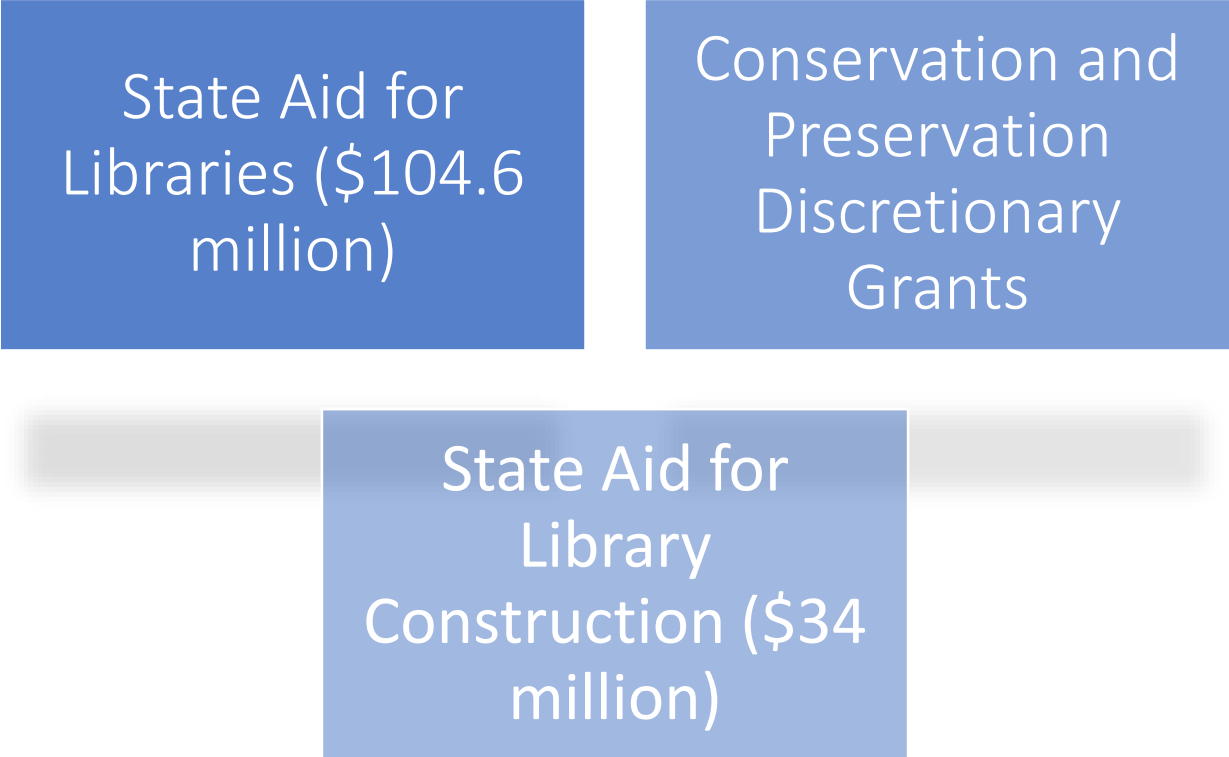
---

General Fund (State)

---

Institute of Museum and Library  
Services (Federal)

# Aid Programs Administered by the NYS Library



# State Aid for Libraries Supports a Robust Infrastructure



# Library Systems Advance Equity and Service

## Achieve Equity

- Ensure every community has access to excellent library services

## Improve Service

- Shared services and collections
  - Technology
  - Professional Development and Consulting

## Deliver Targeted Services

- Outreach Services
  - Designated aid (automation, health literacy, correctional facilities, for example)

# Specific Aid Programs



---

Conservation/Preservation Discretionary Grants

---

New York Public Library

---

Tribal Libraries



# School Library Systems Program

---

This state-aided program creates and funds 40 School Library Systems (SLS)

---

Based in the Big 5 Cities and the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), which serve multiple districts in an area.

---

Main functions of the program are outlined in [Commissioner's Regulations 90.18](#)



# Reference and Research Regional Library Councils

---

Created in 1966 to expand the availability of the resources of academic, medical, law, business and special libraries to more New Yorkers and to enable libraries of all types to buy services and share resources cooperatively in order to strengthen programs and services.

---

Nine systems across the state, each governed by a board of trustees and has a variety of advisory committees to help carry out its work.

---

All nine of the reference and research library resources councils are supported by a combination of State Aid, membership dues and other revenue sources.

# Public Library Systems Program

23 public library systems support the sustainability and excellence of 758 public libraries (with more than 1,100 outlets) across the state.

Systems provide cooperative programs and services that help local communities take advantage of economies of scale.

# State Aid for Public Library Construction

- \$34 million in FY 23-24 Partnership with DASNY
- Formula aid allocated to public library systems
- More than \$1.75 billion in statewide need
- Leverages local funding to make critical investments in library infrastructure



# State Aid for Libraries

1

Critical part of New York's education infrastructure

2

Ensure that lifelong learning opportunities are available for all New Yorkers

3

With continued investment, will ensure that New York's libraries, and the communities they serve, continue to thrive





# Questions?