



everyday

27,622 people on average use the Internet and Wi-Fi in Massachusetts Libraries

Libraries Need High Speed Internet

Fund: 7000-9506

Residents routinely access the internet at libraries to apply for jobs, work on projects, conduct research, and do countless other things that are made possible through reliable high speed internet connections. In fact, 27,622 people on average use the internet and wi-fi in Massachusetts Libraries everyday, over 10 million a year. Yet less than 5% of the 370 Massachusetts Public Libraries meet the national bandwidth standard set by the FCC. Libraries rely on one of the nine Automated Library Networks for the most cost-effective connectivity, but state funding cuts have left networks unable to make improvements to infrastructure that will increase internet speed.

Under-funding of this account passes costs of library networking back to cities and towns, denies residents (especially students) access to essential electronic research materials to support education and economic development, and relegates residents of small towns, mostly in Western Massachusetts and Cape Cod and the Islands to second class status when it comes to accessing the state's library resources.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Fund: 7000-9101

strong libraries

need leadership at the state level

Strong libraries need leadership at the state level. Under the direction of the MBLC, library services have been automated and streamlined, cooperative purchasing agreements have been established, and many needs of local libraries and residents are addressed through statewide contracts, services, and grants, saving time and money.

The MBLC's statewide programs and services increase residents' access to library services and level the playing field so that everyone -- no matter where they live -- has equal access to library

services. Due to lack of funding, statewide research databases, which are so important to students, have already been cut. MBLC has lost staff positions and struggles to carry out the agency's statutory mandate to improve library services for all of the residents of the Commonwealth.



**FY 2019
MBLC
Budget
Request**

**Library funding is 0.06%
of the state budget**



Line Item	High	FY 2018	FY 2019 Request	FY 2019 Increase Over FY 2018
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,229,472 (FY 2001)	\$1,077,431 ↓ 12% from high	\$1,275,000	\$197,569
7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Libraries (Massachusetts Library System - MLS) (Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library- LFC)	\$17,623,954 (FY 2002)	\$9,982,317 ↓ 43% from high	\$10,281,786	\$299,469
7000-9402 Talking Book Library (Worcester)	\$446,828 (FY 2016)	\$441,715 \$50,000* ↓ 1% from high	\$454,966	\$13,251
7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins)	\$2,516,693 (FY 2016)	\$2,512,772 ↓ 1% from high	\$2,588,155	\$75,383
7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,989,844 (FY 2009)	\$9,090,000 ↓ 9% from high	\$9,362,700	\$272,700
7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Library Networks)	\$4,420,235 (FY 2001)	\$2,097,330 ↓ 52% from high	\$3,259,000	\$1,161,670
7000-9508 Mass. Center for the Book	\$200,000 (FY 2017)	\$200,000	\$206,000	\$6,000
		\$25,451,565	\$27,427,607	\$2,026,042

* Includes a \$50,000 earmark for the purchase of a bookmobile by the Worcester Public Library.