



State Aid to Public Library Systems

Increased funding of the state's public library systems creates more opportunities for shared efficiencies, helps local libraries innovate, and strengthens the ability of libraries to **respond to urgent local needs**. An increase in state aid will be targeted to workforce development, information technology, access to electronic content, and lifelong learning. The funding request for state aid to library systems is shown below.

Budget Year	FY22	FY23
Total Amount	\$18,513,100	\$20,013,100
Base	\$16,013,100	\$16,013,100
Requested Increase	\$2,500,000	\$4,000,000

Library Service Contracts

Increased funding of the DPI contracts with providers of specialty library services will maintain existing service levels and allow continuation of statewide access to valuable resources and services. The funding request for library service contracts is shown below.

Budget Year	FY22	FY23
Total Amount	\$1,355,300	\$1,367,700
Base for existing contracts	\$1,342,400	\$1,342,400
Requested Increase	\$12,900	\$25,300

Recollection Wisconsin

WLA is requesting **new** state funding for Recollection Wisconsin in the amount of \$150,000 in FY22 and \$300,000 in FY23 to ensure the state's one-of-a-kind archival materials are preserved and made digitally accessible to anyone in the world.

Budget Year	FY22	FY23
Total Amount	\$150,000	\$300,000
New Request	\$150,000	\$300,000



An increased investment in public library system aid benefits **all residents of Wisconsin** by improving the ability of the state's 380 public libraries to provide critical programs and resources customized to **the greatest needs of their communities**.

State aid to public library systems is a vital investment that yields significant value. It generates **expanded access** to library resources well beyond what is funded with local investments. In addition to serving as the backbone for resource sharing throughout Wisconsin, public library systems create important opportunities for efficiencies and collaborations, help local libraries innovate, and strengthen libraries' abilities to offer essential services, programs, and collections. Increased funding for library systems is especially crucial when Wisconsin's public libraries—supported primarily with limited or shrinking local funds—must respond to urgent and intensifying local and regional needs.

Develop Wisconsin's Workforce & Economy

Wisconsin public libraries provide valuable resources and services which support residents seeking to improve their skills, change careers, and apply for jobs; as well as resources that small businesses, entrepreneurs, and start-ups need to rebuild and improve Wisconsin's economy. An increase in state aid will make possible additional **online courses** and in-person assistance allowing libraries to offer **resume and interview coaching, technology training, and financial/business plan development**.

Improve Access to Information through Technology

Wisconsin public libraries are key strategic partners in the delivery of electronic access and resources to Wisconsin residents. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the ongoing urgent need for robust Internet access and online content. Children are particularly at risk when they are unable to access information they need to learn. Many families still cannot afford internet access at home. Increased funds will be directed toward **improving technology services and cybersecurity**; offering **Wi-Fi hotspots** for home use, **digitization services, coding initiatives**, in-person **technology training**; improving **Internet access, information literacy**; and expanding **digital content**.

Stimulate Lifelong Learning

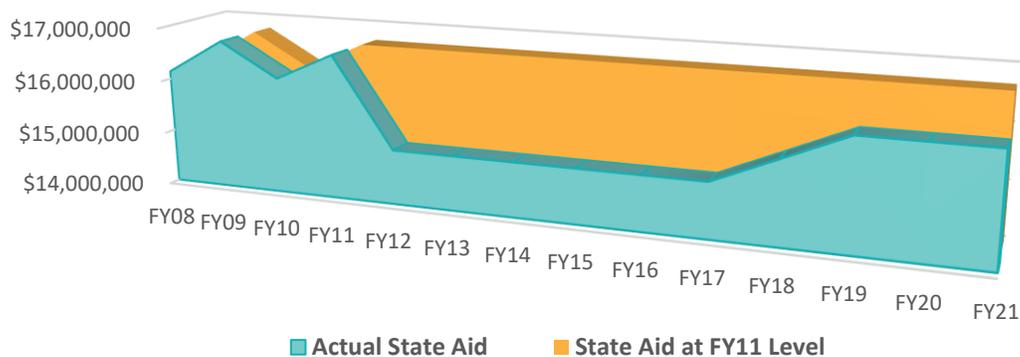
Wisconsin public libraries support and promote lifelong learning, which improves the ability of people to adapt in a fast-changing world, opens doors to higher-paying jobs, and leads to more enriching and fulfilling lives. The library is the only learning institution that serves residents in all stages of life. Increased funds will better address age-specific needs. **Early literacy programs** help young brains develop and prepare kids for school, while increased resources and learning opportunities are necessary for school-age children to **regain learning lost due to school closures**. Public libraries are important partners for school libraries, greatly extending their resources, and are generally the sole library for homeschooled children. **STEM programs** for youth encourage students to consider science, technology and engineering careers much needed for Wisconsin's future economic development. **Creative learning labs** provide opportunities for all ages to learn robotics, 3D modeling, sewing, website design, film editing and more. Libraries, in partnership with agencies such as the Alzheimer's Association, offer **Memory cafes** to provide social networks and help preserve cognitive function for the state's growing population of seniors.

Historic State Aid to Public Library Systems

Library System funding was reduced by 10% in 2011 and has not been fully restored. The chart below shows the reduced level of funding in the budget for every year since. A net loss of \$13,181,000 over that period has resulted in a significantly reduced ability for library systems to carry out critical operations that allow libraries to help Wisconsin residents succeed.

State Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Change from Prior Year	State Aid at FY11 level (pre-2012 cut)	Difference
FY08	\$16,138,000	4.0%		
FY09	\$16,783,500	4.0%		
FY10	\$16,165,400	-3.7%		
FY11	\$16,681,200	3.2%		
FY12	\$15,013,100	-10.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY13	\$15,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY14	\$15,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY15	\$15,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY16	\$15,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY17	\$15,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,668,100
FY18	\$15,513,100	3.3%	\$16,681,200	-\$1,168,100
FY19	\$16,013,100	3.2%	\$16,681,200	-\$668,100
FY20	\$16,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$668,100
FY21	\$16,013,100	0.0%	\$16,681,200	-\$668,100
Total Aid, FY12 through FY21	\$155,131,000		\$166,812,000	-\$13,181,000

Public Library System Aid FY08-FY21



Public Library System Aid Request (2021-2023)

This budget request increases the ability of public library systems to efficiently distribute targeted resources which enable local libraries to best meet the unique needs of their communities during challenging economic and societal conditions.

FISCAL YEAR	FY22	FY23
Base Amount	\$16,013,100	\$16,013,100
Requested Increase	\$2,500,000	\$4,000,000
Total State Aid	\$18,513,100	\$20,013,100

INCREASE DETAILS	FY22	FY23
Additional aid from previous year	\$2,500,000	\$1,500,000
Requested increase from base each year	\$2,500,000	\$4,000,000



Library Service Contracts

WLA supports a request for an increase of \$12,900 in FY22 and \$25,300 in FY23 to fund the estimated costs of maintaining the existing service levels for four library service contracts.

DPI contracts with four providers: the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL), the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL), the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) to provide access to unique resources and materials.

- The UW-Madison and MPL lend materials to residents living in all parts of the state in response to requests forwarded by the Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning staff or public library systems.
- WTBBL provides specialized services to certified blind and physically handicapped persons throughout the state. While the Library of Congress provides the recorded and braille materials (estimated annual value of \$376,700), the state is obligated to provide for processing, maintenance, and circulation.
- CCBC services extend beyond the UW-Madison campus to provide information, outreach, and continuing education opportunities for public and school librarians, teachers, and others throughout Wisconsin.

Library Service Contracts Increases

CHANGE TO BASE	FY22	FY23
Total Amount	\$1,355,300	\$1,367,700
Base	\$1,342,400	\$1,342,400
Requested Increase	\$12,900	\$25,300

Contract	FY21 Base	FY22 Projection	FY23 Projection
UW	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
MPL - ILL	\$66,500	\$69,300	\$72,200
WTBBL	\$1,053,600	\$1,053,600	\$1,057,700
CCBC	\$142,300	\$152,400	\$157,800
Total Costs (Rounded)	\$1,342,400	\$1,355,300	\$1,367,700
Change to Appropriation	n/a	\$12,900	\$25,300



**Wisconsin
Library
Association**

2021-2023 State Budget Priorities

Recollection Wisconsin: Preserving & Making Wisconsin's Historic Treasures Accessible to All

What is Recollection Wisconsin?

Since 2005, Recollection Wisconsin has helped over 200 partners—including libraries, historical societies, universities, and museums — to digitize and share their **one-of-a-kind collections**. Working in partnership with Recollection Wisconsin, libraries and cultural heritage institutions around the state have been able to digitize, curate, and host historic resources making the unique heritage of Wisconsin **discoverable online**. Tens of thousands of photographs, maps, letters, diaries, oral histories, artifacts, and local newspapers are now preserved and made accessible. The Recollection Wisconsin partnership with the Digital Public Library of America **elevates Wisconsin's unique heritage** to a wider audience by making this treasure trove of resources searchable to anyone in the world.

Why is State Funding So Important?

Recollection Wisconsin has been funded with a patchwork of grants intended to support piloting of innovative programs and to encourage **collaboration** among cultural heritage organizations. The uncertainty of grant funding hampers responsible planning for future sustainability. Modest state funding support will **leverage those past investments** by ensuring continuation of a program that has digitized only a fraction of the state's available historical treasures. State investment is needed to ensure timely digitization and preservation of potentially vulnerable historical resources from communities across the state to make them freely and readily accessible for future generations.

Details of Digitization

Digitization is far more than simply scanning documents to a computer. It includes copyright considerations, metadata development, storage and preservation, vendor coordination, and ongoing access. **Preserving the past involves thinking about the future**. Rapidly changing technology and the complexity of how people access information requires professionals with expertise in digital project management, as well as the ability to offer appropriate training and support. Funding Recollection Wisconsin at the state level ensures that the state's historical resources, held in local institutions of all sizes, are both preserved and made **universally accessible**. A map, a diary, a letter, a newspaper, an oral history recording—each offers its own preservation and content management challenges as well as its own **unique contributions to Wisconsin's heritage**.

Funding Information

WLA supports a request for \$150,000 in FY22 and \$300,000 in FY23 enabling basic program costs to transition from grants to state funding while ensuring that the state's history is preserved and accessible into the future. Anticipated expenditures include project management, content hosting and management, staff training, and technology.