

The library needs your **HELP now!**

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The Florida House and Senate TED Appropriations Committees are both proposing to entirely eliminate State Aid to Public Libraries funding. The current amount of \$21.2 million was proposed by the Dept. of State and Governor and is supported by the FLA. Because this amount is the "Maintenance of Effort" amount the state is required to provide to receive \$8.4 million in federal library funds, State Aid elimination also means loss of federal funds. The library community knows the state budget is seriously stressed, but library funding has already been cut by over a third, from \$33.4 million in 2001 to \$21.2 million today. Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative State Aid has dropped from \$209,000 just a few years ago to \$83,387 in FY2010.

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Our area legislators have been very supportive of libraries, but they need to hear from you to give them the justification to restore State Aid to Libraries.

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