Funding Initiatives

State Aid to Libraries Grant Program

- Adequately fund State Aid for public libraries through the Division of Library and Information Services in the Florida Department of State to continue supporting efforts by libraries across Florida to positively impact their communities through ensuring safe and secure elections as polling places, literacy programming to enhance quality of life and improve access to gainful employment, providing educational materials of all levels, and serving as an anchor and gathering place for the building of stronger communities.

Public Library Construction Grant Program

- Build upon the incredible success of the 2023 Legislative Session by, again, fully funding all public library construction requests for FY 2024-2025.
Library Cooperative Grant Program

- Support continued recurring funding and increase the State's investment in the Multitype Library Cooperatives, which provides essential training for library staff and supports resource sharing activities for all Floridians.

Career Online High School

- Appropriately fund this critical program that provides educational access (at no charge) to adult students seeking to improve their quality of life and job opportunities through completing their accredited private high school education at their local branch library.

Colleges’ and Universities’ Essential Library and Distance Learning Services

- Support continued recurring funding to the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network for library resources, distance learning, and student services. This critical program serves all of Florida’s State Colleges and Universities.
Benefits of Florida Libraries

Florida’s Public and Academic Libraries support the Freedom to Succeed

- Job Seekers – Librarians teach classes and provide one-on-one training for resume creation, job searching, and job applications.
- Small Business Owners – Libraries provide space for business owners to meet, utilize fast internet access, and take advantage of industry-standard financial and business research tools and databases.
- College Students – The Florida Virtual Campus is essential to the success of students, faculty, and researchers across the Florida College System and State University System. Florida’s State Colleges and Universities have contributed tens of billions of dollars to state economic growth through student success and funded research.

Florida’s Public and Academic Libraries support Free and Fair Elections

- Voting and Elections – Many libraries serve as polling locations for early and Election Day voting, providing physical space and support. All Florida public libraries also serve as voter registration locations and provide spaces for political and community forums.

Literacy Initiatives

- Children learning to read earlier – library storytimes teach important pre-literacy skills like improved vocabulary and understanding of sentence
structure. Storytime movement activities promote vital cross-brain communication that is invaluable to development of learning to read.

- Adults learning to read for the first time – Libraries provide Adult Literacy coaching, classes, and resources to assist the approximately 22% of adult Floridians who lack basic reading and writing skills. Floridians sit below the national average for Adult Literacy, in approximately the bottom 20% of U.S states.

- Inspiring and nurturing the love of reading for all ages – Robust print and electronic collections, summer reading programs, year-round book discussions, and events coupled with trained expertise of professional and paraprofessional library staff.

- Providing training and resources to increase Financial and Digital Literacy - valuable survival skills in people of all ages. These skills support families in their work and daily lives.

Community Hub

- Meeting place – Libraries offer spaces for study groups, parent groups, civic organizations, homeowners associations, and other community groups that meet regularly.

- Cultural programs and enrichment activities – Important cultural and historic events are held throughout the year across all Florida libraries.