
Strong Libraries. Strong Communities.



Florida Library Association 2023 Legislative Platform and Priorities



Funding Initiatives

State Aid to Public Libraries Grant Program

- ✓ Sustain \$17,500,000 in recurring funds, in conjunction with \$6,000,000 in non-recurring funding (F.S. 257.17)

Public Library Construction Grants:

- ✓ Appropriate funding of \$9,000,000 to support nineteen ranked, eligible applications (F.S. 257.191)

Library Cooperative Grant:

- ✓ Support recurring funding of \$2,000,000 (F.S. 257.40-42)

Career Online High School

- ✓ Appropriate \$750,000

Colleges' and Universities' Essential Library and Distance Learning Services

- ✓ Support recurring \$22,583,517 for library, distance learning and student services. Appropriate \$1,500,000 in non-recurring funding for library electronic resources. (Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network, F.S. 1006.73)
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Economic Development



- ✓ **Job seekers getting the help they need.** Librarians teach classes and provide one-on-one training for resumes, job searching and job applications.
- ✓ **Small Business Owners utilizing valuable space and support.** Libraries provide space for business owners to meet, utilize fast internet and take advantage of industry standard financial and business research tools and databases.
- ✓ **College Students succeeding.** 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 Strong Communities:

Literacy



- ✓ **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 the 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.
- ✓ **Inspiring and nurturing the love of reading for all ages.** Robust collections, summer reading programs, year round book discussions and events coupled with trained Librarian expertise.

Florida's Public and Academic Libraries support Strong Communities:

Community Hub



- ✓ **Meeting place.** Study groups, parents groups, civic organizations, political parties, homeowners associations, and religious groups all regularly meet at the library.
- ✓ **Cultural programs and enrichment activities.** Important cultural and historical events are held throughout the year across all Florida Libraries.
- ✓ **Voting and Elections.** Libraries serve as polling locations for early and Election Day voting, providing physical space and support. Libraries also serve as voter registration locations and provide spaces for political and community forums.

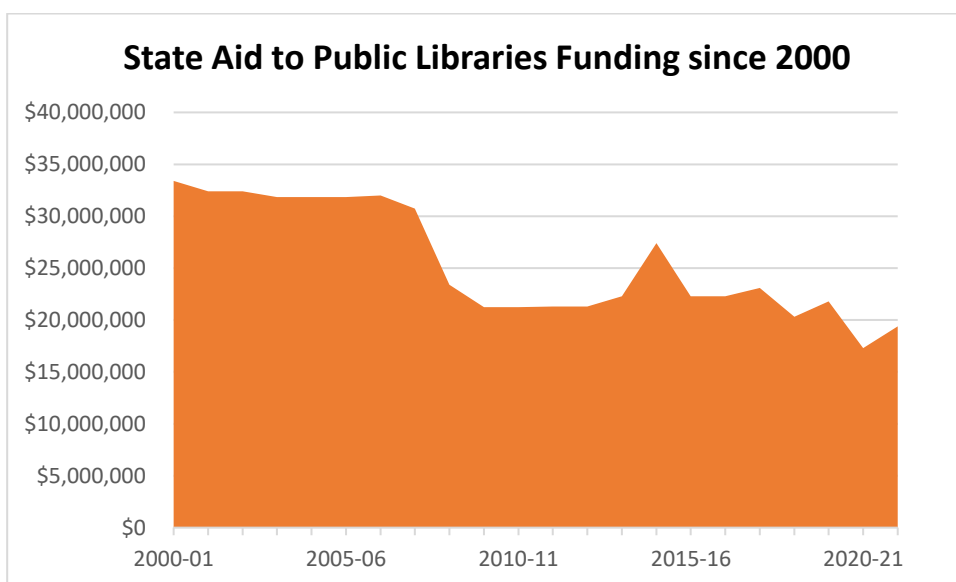
Funding Initiatives Overview

State Aid to Public Libraries Grant Program –

Sustain \$17,500,000 in recurring funds, in conjunction with \$6,000,000 in non-recurring funding (F.S. 257.17)

Public Libraries that receive State Aid to Public Libraries funding invest approximately \$559 million annually in delivering library services to the public. This grant funding goes directly towards day to day operating expenses to ensure libraries doors remain open to the public. FLA seeks to restore State Aid funding levels with at least \$17,500,000 in recurring funding, with \$6,000,000 non-recurring funding, which would begin to restore the State's support for library services back to prior recent years.

State Aid to Public Libraries – Funding lower in 2021-22 than 2000-01



State Aid was funded in 2000-01 at \$33,400,000 and most recently in 2021-22, at \$19,394,457 or \$14,005,543 less than 21 years earlier.

During that same period, inflation cut the value of a dollar to \$.60 and the 2022 dollars are worth \$7,757,782 compared to 2000-01.

Florida's population grew by 6,195,619, from 15,982,378 to 22,177,997, with the per capita funding dropping from \$2.10 in 2000-01 to \$.87.

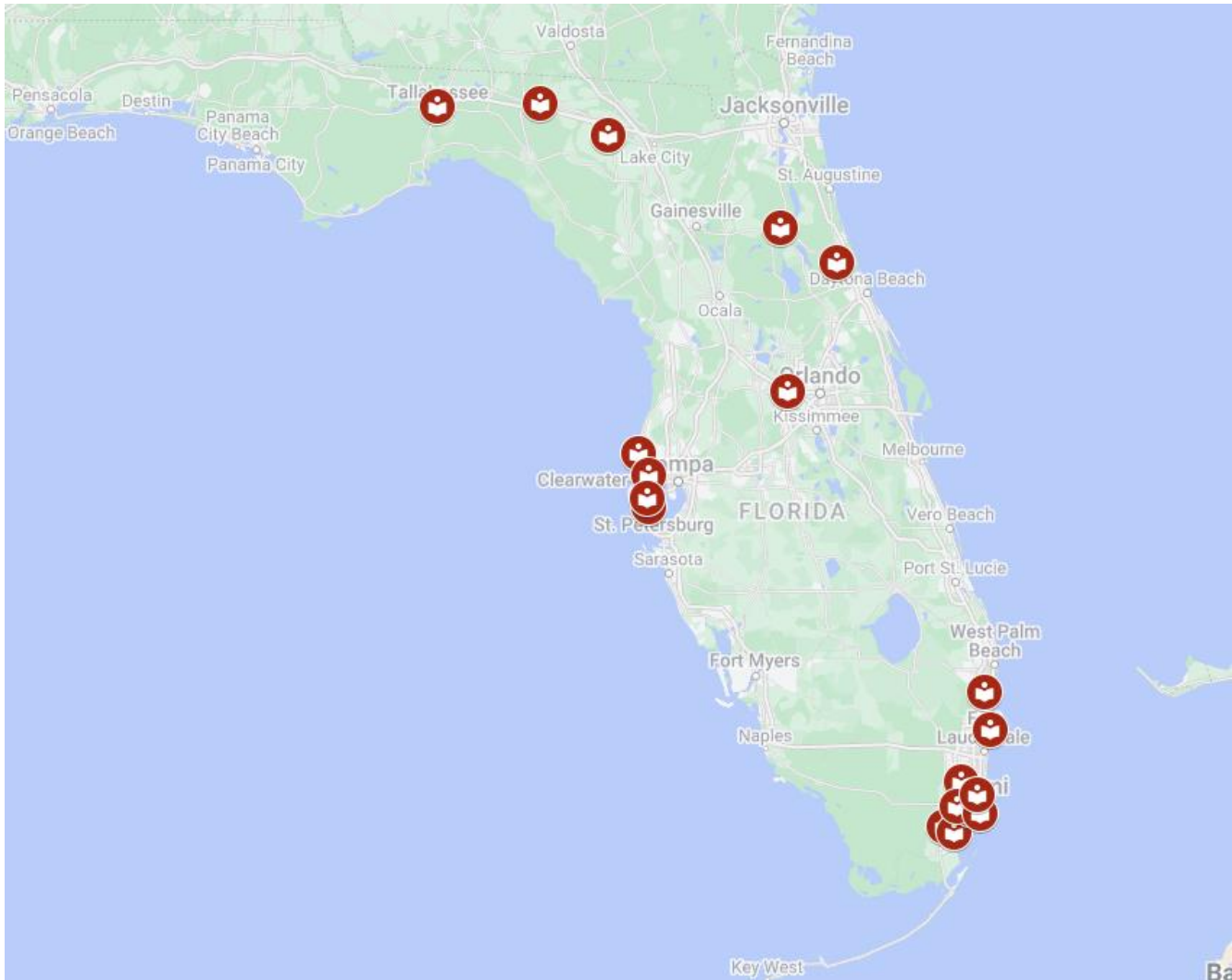
Comparing 2021-22 to 2000-01, state funding for public libraries dropped by \$14 million, with each dollar worth 40 cents less, to support services for 6.2 million more Floridians.



Appropriate funding of \$9,000,000 to Public Library Construction Grants to nineteen ranked applications (F.S. 257.191)

Nineteen applications have been reviewed and deemed eligible for Public Library Construction Grant funding in 2023-2024 for a total of \$9,000,000. This locally matched funding helps generate economic development, while demonstrating local investment in our libraries by providing for new construction, renovations, and critical infrastructure improvements. This grant ensures the ongoing vitality of libraries in our communities.

**Public Library Construction Grants
2023-2024**



**Public Library Construction Grants
2023-2024**

	Applicant / Project Name
1	Flagler County / Bunnell Library and Administrative Headquarters
2	City of Oakland Park / Oakland Park Library
3	Miami-Dade County / Chuck Pezoldt Branch Library
4	Leon County / Leon County Main Library
5	Putnam County / Melrose Branch Library Expansion
6	City of Lighthouse Point / Lighthouse Point Library
7	City of Saint Petersburg / Main Library Renovation
8	Saint Johns County / Hastings Community Center and Library
9	City of Tarpon Springs / Tarpon Springs Public Library
10	City of Safety Harbor / Safety Harbor Public Library Second Story
11	Madison County / Greenville Public Library
12	City of Pinellas Park / Barbara S. Ponce Public Library
13	Suwannee County / Branford Public Library
14	Miami-Dade County / South Dade Regional Library Renovation Program
15	Miami-Dade County / Miami Lakes Public Library Expansion Grant
16	Miami-Dade County / Coconut Grove Branch Library
17	Miami-Dade County / Westchester Regional Library
18	Miami-Dade County / Key Biscayne Library Expansion Project
19	Miami-Dade County / Lemon City Library Construction Grant



Appropriate \$750,000 for Career Online High School

FLA supports recurring funding for this program that allows 19-and-older out of school adults to complete a private, accredited high school diploma and career certificate through participating public library systems. Since 2016, more than 914 students have graduated and an additional 120 students are actively working on their coursework. This program makes a private high school diploma more accessible to Floridians and prepares them for success in the workforce.

Support recurring \$2,000,000 - Library Cooperative Grant Program (F.S. 257.40-42)

FLA supports state funding for the five (5) Multitype Library Cooperatives in Florida, administered by the Division of Library and Information Services, Department of State. MLC funds support bibliographic record enhancement, statewide delivery service support, union catalog support and development, reciprocal borrowing, cooperative cataloging, cooperative reference services, cooperative collection development, digitization, and implementation of or support for innovation in the use of technologies related to resource sharing.

Support recurring \$22,583,517 and non-recurring \$1,500,000 to FPALN/FLVC for State University and College Libraries

Academic libraries are essential for student success, faculty research, and institution ranking. Through the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC), the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network (FPALN, F.S. 1006.73) provides essential online library and distance learning resources and services to all State University System (SUS) and Florida College System (FCS) institutions. This funding provides the online library catalog and resource sharing platform used by all SUS and FCS students, essential academic e-resources, the statewide distance learning catalog, the transient student application platform, and other essential services for student success.



Thank you for supporting Florida Libraries!



References

- Florida Literacy Coalition, Survey of Adult Skills, <https://floridaliteracy.org/piaac.html>
 - History of State Aid to Public Libraries Funding - 2022
 - CPI Inflation Calculator, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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