



Massachusetts Libraries  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

# Because the next best-selling author could be in our own backyard



## **MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARIES NEED MORE FUNDING.**

More than 50 authors have self-published eBooks through the Commonwealth eBook Collections (CEC) in the past year. And that's not the only thing the CEC has enabled us to do: libraries can now share eContent in the same way they do print, breaking the digital lockout. It has also given Massachusetts leverage to get better eBook pricing for libraries and push for eBooks to be created that are accessible for all users, including those with visual impairments. The Massachusetts Center for the Book also works to connect authors with readers through events like the Massachusetts Book Awards and Letters about Literature. Good for authors, good for residents.

**State funding to support Massachusetts Libraries is lower than it was in 1998.**

# FY2018 MBLC Budget Request



**Library  
funding  
is .06%  
of the  
state  
budget**



Line Item	High	FY 2017	FY 2018 Request	FY 2018 Increase Over FY 2017	How The Increase Will Be Used
<b>7000-9101</b> Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,229,472 (FY 2001)	\$1,077,431 ↓ <b>12% from high</b>	\$1,225,000	\$147,569	This line has been in deficit for 14 months. The increase will be used to meet rent and payroll and the legal financial obligation to fulfill union staff wage increases. Funding is currently at 1998 levels and supports a small staff that runs statewide programs and services, including Public Library Construction.
<b>7000-9401</b> State Aid to Regional Libraries (Massachusetts Library System - MLS)	\$17,623,954 (FY 2002)	\$9,883,482 ↓ <b>44% from high</b> \$7,381,599 (MLS)	\$8,196,599 (MLS)	\$1,065,188 (MLS)	Statewide delivery, which delivers 6.4 million items each year that residents request from other libraries, is in crisis. The increase will stave off delivery reductions to 25 libraries and prevent the elimination of Saturday delivery to 75 libraries. Each item is delivered for less than the cost of a postage stamp.
(Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library- LFC)		\$2,501,88 (LFC) [0.407 pc]	\$2,752,071 (LFC) [0.4777 pc]	\$250,188 (LFC)	Without the increase: LFC will be unable to maintain the eBook collection (the most popular collection with 67% of use from outside Boston); residents will lose remote access to many research and educational resources; the growth of Massachusetts' digital library, Digital Commonwealth, may stop.
<b>7000-9402</b> Talking Book Library (Worcester)	\$446,828 (FY 2016)	\$441,715 ↓ <b>1% from high</b>	\$450,115	\$8,400	This line item supports people who are blind or visually impaired. Increase will improve website access to materials and provide portable Wi-Fi hotspots.
<b>7000-9406</b> Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins)	\$2,516,693 (FY 2016)	\$2,487,893 ↓ <b>1% from high</b>	\$2,562,528	\$74,635	This line item supports people who are blind or visually impaired. Increase will support access to 500,000 audio and braille titles and to materials on digital cartridges; facility cost increase; and staffing cost.
<b>7000-9501</b> State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,989,844 (FY 2009)	\$9,000,000 ↓ <b>10% from high</b>	\$10,127,412	\$1,127,412	This is local aid for libraries that can be used in any way that supports the library. Many libraries use it to restore hours open, buy public computers, or fund capital improvements.
<b>7000-9506</b> Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Library Networks)	\$4,420,235 (FY 2001)	\$2,076,564 ↓ <b>53% from high</b>	\$3,259,000	\$1,182,436	Improve Network infrastructure to increase Internet bandwidth in more than 360 public libraries that are currently below FCC guidelines. Offset the cost of network membership for 328 libraries so that residents have access to materials from across the state— particularly important to residents in smaller communities whose libraries (162) participate in the Small Libraries in Networks Program.
<b>7000-9508</b> Mass. Center for the Book	\$200,000 (FY 2017)	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$10,000	Hire a development consultant to run annual appeal and develop two program grants (first year of a three year plan).
		\$25,167,085	\$28,782,725	\$3,615,640	