

For the 2010-11 state budget, the Pennsylvania Library Association urges Governor Rendell, State Senators, and State Representatives to support these goals to restore access to much-needed library services for their constituents:

1. A **\$3 million increase to restore Library Access**, especially the POWER Library electronic resources heavily used last year **76 million—yes, million—times**. (This vital statewide program serving public libraries and schools was cut 73% in the current year's budget.)
2. A **5% increase in library appropriations** that will restore 5% more access to meet growing public demand (detailed chart at:
<http://palibraries.org/associations/9291/files/State%20budg%20chart%20for%20website.pdf>)

The key to our message is that libraries are busier than ever and more access to libraries—not less—is needed this year. Sadly, state budget cuts, and local cuts that followed in many places, have forced libraries all over the state cut hours, computer access, programs, and staff.

Just consider:

- Last year when circulation was **up 9%** and library visitors **up 11%**, the state's public library subsidy was **cut 21%**
- Last year when in-library computer use was **up 19%**, the state's Library Access funding (for electronic resources and shared services) was **slashed 73%**
- Last year when hits on library websites **jumped 48%**, the state's funding for **all library programs dropped 28%**.

Yes, we understand that times are tough but that just means that libraries are in **more** demand: by parents with pre-school children, by people looking for work, by K-12 students, by those in need who must file online for Social Security, veterans' benefits or unemployment compensation, by seniors with health concerns, by parents in the "Sandwich Generation" dealing with kids and aging parents, by struggling families without an Internet connection at home, and many, many more citizens who rely on high-quality, accessible library services across Pennsylvania.

Please contact your legislators and Governor Rendell and ask them why we're cutting libraries at the very time libraries are needed most. Urge them (firmly but politely) to restore the public's access to libraries by taking these two important steps in the 2010-11 state budget:

1. A **\$3 million increase for Library Access**, and
2. **5% increases in library appropriations** to restore 5% more access to library services

See the reverse side for a chart comparing this year's budget with Governor Rendell's proposal and PaLA's goals for 2010-11. For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Library Association at www.palibraries.org.

Final 2009-10 State Budget vs. Governor Rendell's 2010-11 Proposal vs. Pala Restoration Goals for 2010-11

PROGRAM	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	% CUT IN LIBRARY SERVICES, CURRENT YEAR (09-10)	RENDELL-PROPOSED FY 2010-11 BUDGET	ADDITIONAL DOLLARS CUT, RENDELL PROPOSAL	% CUT, RENDELL PROPOSAL	PALA 2010-11 RESTORATION GOALS	PALA 2010-11 RESTORATION GOALS	PALA 2010-11 RESTORATION GOALS
Office of Commonwealth Libraries (includes State Library operations)	\$ 4,846,000	\$ 2,396,000	(2008-09 PASSED vs. 2009-10 PASSED in Oct. 2009)	\$2,372,000	(10-11 PROPOSED vs. 09-10 LEGISLATURE -PASSED AMOUNT)	(10-11 PROPOSED vs. 09-10 LEGISLATURE -PASSED AMOUNT)	\$2,490,600	\$118,600	+ 5%
Library Services/Visually Impaired & Disabled	\$ 2,976,000	\$ 2,926,000	-1.7%	\$2,897,000	\$ 29,000	- 1.0 %	\$3,072,300	\$146,300	+ 5%
Library Access (POWER Library, statewide card, interlibrary delivery)	\$ 7,290,000	\$ 3,000,000	-72.9%	\$ 2,970,000	\$ 30,000	- 1.0 %	\$6,000,000	\$3,030,000	+ 102%
Electronic Library Catalog /Ask Here PA, Access PA database)	\$ 3,792,000	(Merged with Library Access line above)	(Merged with Library Access line above)	(Merged with Library Access line above)	---	---	---	---	---
Public Library Subsidy	\$75,750,000	\$ 60,000,000	-20.8%	\$58,800,000	\$1,200,000	- 2.0 %	\$63,000,000	\$3,000,000	+5%
Total - All Programs	\$94,654,000	\$ 68,322,000	-27.8%	\$ 67,039,000	\$1,283,000	- 1.9%	\$74,562,900	\$6,294,900	+9.2%