The New York Library Initiative

Libraries fueling literacy, learning, innovation and growth

Public Library Construction

Continued funding for public library renovation and construction is necessary to ensure that all of New York's libraries are energy efficient, can accommodate new computer and Internet technology, and are accessible to New Yorkers with disabilities.

Benefits

The New York Library Initiative would ensure that New York's public libraries:

- Meet new standards of green construction and energy efficiency.
- Accommodate new computer and Internet technology through wiring and other upgrades.
- Accommodate individuals in wheelchairs and with other disabilities through addition of ramps and accessible parking and bathrooms.
- Have the necessary space for growing collections, computers, and programs.

Needs

- There is a documented $2.1 billion need for public library construction and renovation in New York State.
- More than 600 public library facilities in New York State need new construction and/or building renovations.
- 471 public library buildings are at least 60 years old, and many are cramped, outdated, rundown, and unsafe.
- Over the past two years significant, one-time capital appropriations by the legislature and Governor totaling $28 million have begun to address the need. However, New York State provides only $800,000 in annual, ongoing support for public library construction.
- New York is outranked by states such as **Connecticut ($1.4 million), Delaware ($1.1 million), Florida ($11.8 million), Illinois ($1.3 million), Kentucky ($1.5 million), Massachusetts ($16.7 million),** and **Rhode Island ($2.5 million)** in ongoing, annual support for public library construction.

Requested Resources **$20 million annually**

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The New York State Library is part of the Office of Cultural Education and a program of the State Education Department