

September 1, 2021

Dear Member Library Board Presidents and Directors;

I'm extremely pleased to announce that the RCLS Board of Trustees approved the 2022 Operating Budget on August 16, 2021. While the last 18 months has been very challenging for everyone personally and professionally, I'm delighted to report the 2022 RCLS Budget has very little impact on the member library's fee.

RCLS programs along with services were reestablished and equally as important we continued our efforts to support the new RCLS Plan of Service by fulfilling member libraries requests. These requests included aiding in the areas of marketing, legal advice, sustainability initiatives, and increased continuing education opportunities. We hope that these enhancements will help the member libraries better equip and train their staff while improving the patrons' overall experience. The greatest overall contributor to the RCLS 2022 Budget was the return of State Aid. The State Aid to RCLS and member libraries was \$466,000 and \$165,000 respectively.

The service fee for member libraries has remained unchanged for the past three (3) years. As mentioned in previous discussions, RCLS anticipated a massive deterioration in state funding of 25% which could have resulted in a dramatic increase to the library service fee by almost double. Fortunately, the reinstatement of state aid in conjunction with the small change in the RCLS budget has only resulted in a \$5,600 service fee increase for 2022. Also, please keep in mind, the RCLS budget is based on State Aid that falls almost 3% below what we secured in 2019 and almost 8% below what is stipulated by Education Law. Yet despite these limitations, RCLS has always recognized the specific roles and responsibilities we fulfill in this partnership with member libraries and will continue to help with support, growth, and innovation.

RCLS would like to invite all member library Trustees and Directors to learn more about how the budget was prepared and have the opportunity to ask questions. The RCLS Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hofer, and I invite you to participate in one of the scheduled budget discussions. We hope these discussions will be mutually beneficial and informative to everyone.

Please note that registration for attendance for the Annual Meeting and the Budget Discussions is required as budgeting is essential to our joint goal our financial security.



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Pease join us for these events by visiting the RCLS website, under the link for the calendar at <https://rcls.evanced.info/signup/calendar> Registration is necessary to receive an email one day (1) day prior to the discussion with the Zoom link. The scheduled dates are listed below:

Annual Meeting- Friday, September 10, 2021 (10AM - 12PM)
Budget Discussion- Tuesday, September 28, 2021 (7PM – 8PM)
Budget Discussion- Thursday, September 30, 2021 (7PM – 8PM)

Finally, please find the following important documents included in this letter for your review.

1. 2022 Budget (displaying each member's RCLS Service Fee)
2. Budget Highlights Reference Guide
3. 2022 Budget Voting Ballot **(due by 11/5/21)**

I look forward to a continued fruitful and productive working relationship. Thank you for your time, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Grace Riario