

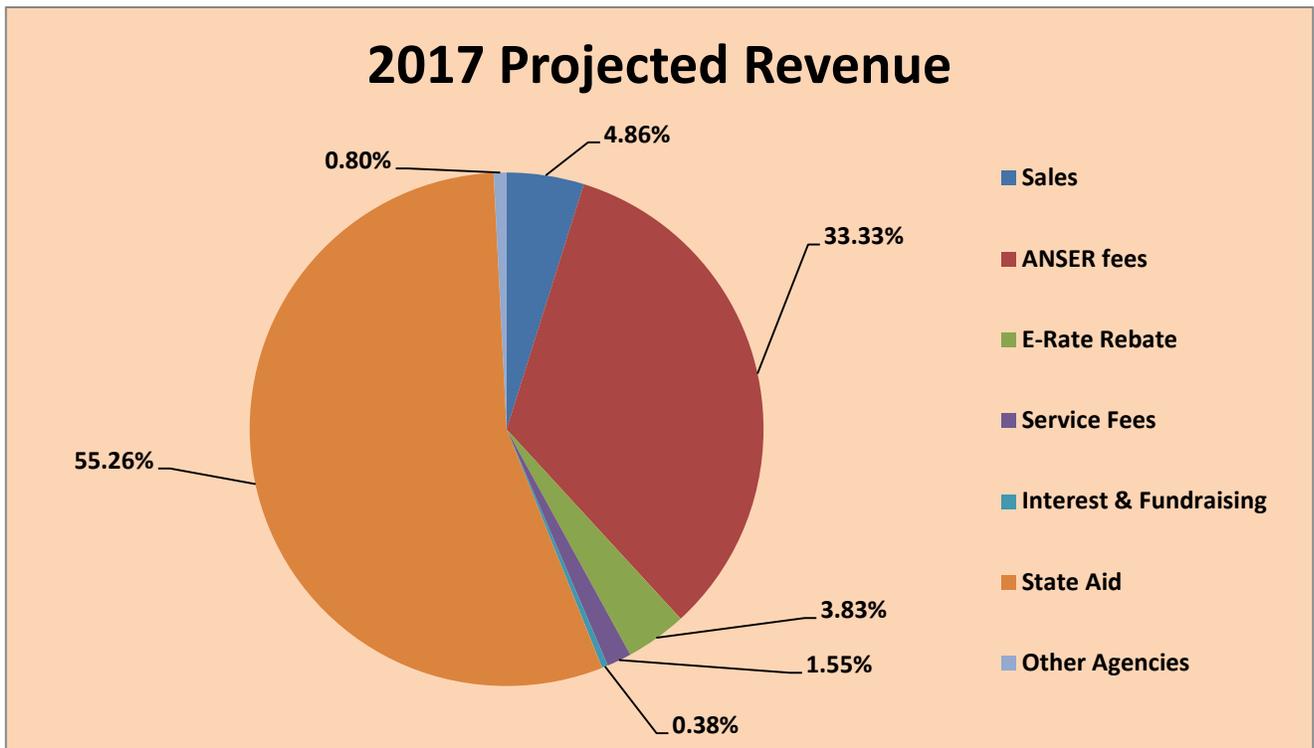


ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS 2017

Thank you for joining us for New York Library Association (NYLA) Library Advocacy Day! We know this is a very significant commitment of time – we appreciate your help – your voices and presence make a difference.

This year our Budget Priority is to get full funding for State Aid to libraries and library systems at \$102.6 million, as outlined in Education Law. The Governor's Executive Budget proposal would provide \$91.627 million in State Aid for libraries and library systems, \$4 million less than last year. This cut will reduce State Aid to Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) by just over \$108,000, about 4.62%. This means our funding would be 10.7% below the formulas in Education Law and at the same level of funding we received in 2000. Since 2008, libraries and library systems have been funded at a level well below the formulae in Education Law. We are also asking that increases in State Aid to libraries and library systems be proportional to the increase in education funding; this year the increase to Education Funding will be at least 4%.

1. All RCLS services are based on the Plan of Service mandated and approved by the Division of Library Development (DLD) and developed in consultation with the member libraries.
2. Funding for RCLS comes from two primary sources - State Aid and member library service fees.
 - a. Automated Network Services (ANSER) and member library service fees represent 34.88% of RCLS' total revenue (33.33% and 1.55% respectively);
 - b. A small portion (0.38%) of revenue comes from interest earned and fundraising by the Board;
 - c. The E-rate rebate represents about 3.83% of all revenue;
 - d. State Aid for other agencies represent 0.80% of the total; and
 - e. All State Aid represents 55.26% of all RCLS' revenue.



3. RCLS reduced staffing by 18.7% between 2000 and 2016.
4. The RCLS Budget increased 34.63% between 2000 and 2017, while inflation increased by 41.02%.
5. The RCLS Budget increased by 2.32% between 2010 and 2017, while inflation increased by 11.37%
6. In 2017, the value of the automation services provided by RCLS is projected to be \$3.14 for each dollar of revenue and for all other services provided by RCLS, the value is \$4.47 for each dollar of revenue.

Libraries are a core component of our state's educational infrastructure – LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATION. Libraries are chartered by the same Board of Regents that oversees schools, colleges, BOCES and other educational institutions, and library aid is administered through the NYS Department of Education. Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State. We are asking for State Aid to libraries and library systems to be increased each year in proportion to the increase for general education funding (this year 4.8%).

A recent Siena Poll found that 94% of New Yorkers say their local library is an important part of our education system, with nearly half saying library aid should increase proportionately to increase in education funding.

Who will gain from Library Advocacy Day?

1. ALL NY libraries and citizens.
2. ALL libraries and systems which receive direct State Aid.
3. ALL libraries which receive indirect State Aid in the form of cooperative services and shared programs from their library system.
4. Legislators who need to understand how libraries can help them.