



February 10, 2020

The House of Representatives has passed a budget that entirely eliminates state aid to public libraries in Kentucky. This would do serious harm to many public libraries across the Commonwealth, potentially closing some.

In Fiscal Year 2019, the LCPL received \$22,297 in state aid. The loss of state funding would not necessarily close the doors of our library, but would require an adjustment in services, programs, and staffing. Below are 2019 line-item expenditures that could have individually been fully or partially funded from state aid alone.

- Part-Time Staff: \$23,872
- Books, Audio Books, DVDs, Newspapers, Music CDs, Books Processing Supplies: \$31,326
- Library Programming (In-house, Summer Reading, Outreach, School) \$31,339
- Utilities/Internet/Telephone: \$34,741
- Bookmobile/Outreach Vehicle Service: \$6,642
- Computer Costs (Hardware & Software: Public and Staff Use): \$34,313.92
- Insurance: \$28,224
- Cleaning and Building Maintenance: \$21,339

These are only a portion of expenditures required to operate our library. What difference does it make? Do people actually use the library? Below are **Ten Year Comparisons Usage Statistics** for the LCPL.

	2017-18	2007
Registered Users	17,330	9,053
Circulation	65,873	67,763
Collection	173,231	25,194
# of Programs	2,414	480
Program Attendance	68,378	14,549
Library Visits	59,759	44,450

Computer Usage	53,644	10,831
Reference Transactions	146,507	24,561
Meetings Held	800	201

Source: Kentucky Public Library Statistics, 2017-2018

<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/plssd/Documents/KDLA1718.pdf>

How does the Lawrence County Public Library rank among other libraries in the state of Kentucky?

2017 – 2018 Top Ten in the State of Kentucky in:

- Children’s Program Attendance (#3)
- Number of Children’s Programs (#8)
- Registered Users (#6)
- Number of Young Adult Programs (#4)
- Young Adult Program Attendance (#7)
- Adult Program Attendance (#9)
- Total # of Programs (#6)
- Total Program Attendance (#8)
- Reference Transactions (#6)

Source: Kentucky Public Library Statistics, 2017-2018

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If you support public libraries in the state of Kentucky, take a moment to contact your senator. Lawrence County’s senator is Phillip Wheeler, District 31. The hotline number is 1-800-372-7181. Encourage the restoration of state aid to the budget for all libraries in Kentucky.