

Quotes from the Field

The Importance of State Aid to Public Libraries

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries conducted a State Aid Survey in January 2018. Here's what public libraries told us...

State Aid is Essential to Providing Basic Library Services in Communities of All Sizes.

“As a small rural library that serves a low income population, we depend on state funding to be able to adequately operate. Our city tax base continues to shrink and there doesn't seem to be any increase

in the future. Our patrons need our library not only for books, but for computers to fill out resumes, job applications, and to apply for assistance for various situations.” –comment from a library serving under 2,000 population

“If we did not receive aid, we would not be able to provide any additional services. In this rural area, the internet services provided are priceless to our patrons.” –from a library serving under 2,000 population

“We absolutely would not be able to have the quality summer programming that we do if we didn't have State Aid.” –from a library serving 2,000 to 5,000 population

“We depend on State Aid every year to keep our doors open. We have such a decrease of our county sales tax that we need it to subsidize our revenue.” –from a library serving between 5,000 and 10,000 population

“24.5% of our community lives in poverty and they depend on us. Our materials budget has not increased in the past 10 years. Our community depends on us to provide the resources they need. We count on State Aid to bridge the gap.” –from a library serving between 10,000 and 25,000 population

“The majority of our book budget comes from State Aid.” –from a library serving more than 25,000 population



State Aid Helps Library Services Stay Current and Up-to-Date

“State Aid funds allow us to expand areas that are important to our community, try new services, and supplement our small technology budget.” –from a library serving 2,000 to 5,000 population

“State Aid provides funding that keeps our technology updated. **Without State Aid, our hardware and software would be inadequate to serve our community effectively.**”
–from a library serving 2,000 to 5,000 population

“State Aid provides funding that keeps our technology updated. **Without State Aid, our hardware and software would be inadequate** to serve our community effectively.
–from a library serving 2,000 to 5,000 population

“Without State Aid, public libraries in Oklahoma would not be able to provide the technology services our customers require in today’s world, such as computers, information databases, eBooks.” –from a library serving 10,000 to 25,000 population

“We use our State Aid to **pay the cost of delivering items** to each of **our branches**. We share expensive technology kits and equipment so that **even small branches can provide fun how-to-code programs** without having to purchase the items themselves.” –from a multi-county library system

State Aid is Appreciated

“Our State Aid means so much to us. We are a small rural library, and we serve surrounding towns, also.” –from a library serving 2,000 to 5,000 population

“State Aid is very important for our library and our community.” –from a library serving more than 25,000 population

“State Aid is **greatly appreciated.**”
–from a library serving under 2,000 population

