

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FROM LD&L REGARDING THE 2021-2023 BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET REQUEST**

WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee (LD&L) held a short special meeting on April 17, 2020.

There was consensus that the 2021-2023 biennial budget request for an increase in public library system aid should be the same as in 2019-21, i.e. an extra \$2.5 million in the first year and \$4 million (the \$2.5M from the first year plus another \$1.5M) in the second. Additional funding granted for system aids in the (current) 2019-2021 biennium are now the new base rather than a “one time only” appropriation as in 2017-2019.

### State Aid to Public Library Systems

Increased funding of the state’s public library systems creates more opportunities for shared efficiencies, helps local libraries innovate, and strengthens libraries’ abilities to **respond to urgent local needs**. An increase in state aid would be targeted to workforce development, information technology, access to electronic content, and lifelong learning. The funding request for state aid to library systems is shown below.

Budget Year	FY22	FY23
Total Amount	\$19,013,100	\$20,513,100
Base	\$16,513,100	\$16,513,100
<b>Requested Increase</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

INCREASE DETAILS	FY22	FY23
Additional aid from previous year	\$2,500,000	\$1,500,000
<b>Requested increase</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

Amounts for the four statewide resource contracts (Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison), BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind are yet to be determined and will be shared by DPI/DLT as soon as requests are known. Pursuing inclusion of Recollection Wisconsin as a new fifth contract at a first/second year level of \$150,000/\$300,000 was again supported.

Based on input from the April 16 SRLAAW meeting, initiating a separate funding request for the Wisconsin Public Library System Technology Collaboration project was tabled. Both LD&L and SRLAAW reached the conclusion that this is not an optimal time for a separate technology request which might negatively compete with system aids. More time is needed to work out infrastructure details. The project could, however, be taken up by a coalition of partnering systems using their system aids dollars if they so chose. Some systems may decide to invest in other technology projects. The important work invested in this project so far can be folded into messaging and talking points going forward.