

## Issue Brief:

# Washington State Library Funding (Supplemental Budget)



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The Senate's proposed supplemental budget reduces the Washington State Library's biennial appropriation by \$1.4 million. At the same time it includes a proviso that requires \$1.5 million in federal appropriations be used for service to state institutions. Contrary to the Senate budget document statement on page 29, "Assistance to local libraries will not be reduced," the appropriation cut and the proviso will affect services available to local libraries—public, community college, university, and school—through the Washington State Library. The House budget proposal's \$432,000 reduction without that proviso would not significantly impact local library services.

- WSL is providing vital resources and services to the state's most vulnerable populations through services such as the Hard Times Resource Guide, Renew Washington Grants, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, branches in mental hospitals and correctional facilities, Ask-WA virtual reference, children's summer reading program coordination, downloadable audio books, Keepers of the Stories listserv for tribal libraries, Autism Awareness training, and early learning projects.
- Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds are used to create and maintain programs available to all libraries, such as statewide contracts for online databases and downloadable audio books; statewide projects such as the Hard Times Resource Guide and grants that serve vulnerable Washingtonians; as well as local projects and training for public, school, academic, and tribal libraries.
- To receive the federal LSTA funds, WSL must meet the federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement that \$1,841,711 in state funds are spent for allowable purposes. If that requirement isn't met, which it won't with the Senate proposal, LSTA funding will decrease over three years and all statewide programs supported by LSTA will be affected.

Washington's library community strongly urges the Senate to restore state funding adequate to meet federal MOE requirements for LSTA funding and preserve the programs it supports, which are being used more than ever during the current downturn in our economy. At the same time the library community thanks House budget writers for including funds that will allow the Washington State Library to continue functioning as a resource to all libraries throughout the state.