

Making the Case for Connecticut Library Funding

2016 CONCERNS

- The Connecticut State Library budget is currently 25% lower than it was 8 years ago.
- The Connecticut State Library cannot afford any more budget cuts.
- The Malloy administration has assigned the Connecticut State Library to find \$579,760 in cuts, a 5.75 percent reduction. This budget includes funding for interlibrary loan delivery service, legal and legislative library materials, cooperative library service units (aka CLC), grants to public libraries, Connecticut card payments and the state-wide digital library. ([CT Mirror](#))
- Proposed cuts may hurt local library budgets because: (1) Reduced funding for CLC would impact CLC's group purchasing discounts, reducing library purchasing power; and (2) Reductions to the borrowIT CT (Ccard) reimbursements would impact resource sharing.

FUNDING CLC IS ESSENTIAL

- CLC received a 47% state funding cut in 2015.
- CLC's funding cut was - by far - the most draconian of any cuts to any state library programs in 2015.
- CLC has reorganized, reduced staffing, increased member dues, and is currently using reserve funds to make up a portion of cut funding.
- **At current state funding levels, CLC will cease to exist in 5 years.**

> CLC member libraries saved \$7,252,273 in FY 2014-15 through CLC's negotiated discounts, group purchasing programs and training.

- Connecticut's public libraries saved almost \$76 for every \$1 they invested in CLC in FY 2014-15.
- Nearly 1,400 Connecticut librarians benefited from CLC's free or low-cost professional development programs in FY 2014-15.
- CLC is lean and mean: by employing a small staff that negotiates on behalf of over 800 libraries across the state, we reduce the effort, staff time and cost of purchasing library products and services by individual libraries – and greater discounts are realized by Connecticut libraries thanks to collective purchasing power.