

2025-26 PUBLIC FUNDING PRIORITIES

Empowering Louisville Through Enhanced Library Support

Libraries are essential in our ongoing effort to make Louisville a safer, stronger, and healthier city. The Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) is a cornerstone of our community, playing a pivotal role in the well-being of our citizens, families, and businesses. To fully realize the vision of a thriving and forward-moving city, increased financial support for the library is crucial.

STRONGER LIBRARY STRONGER LOUISVILLE

LFPL OPERATIONAL FUNDING NEEDS

\$2 MILLION BOOKS + MATERIALS



The average wait time for materials at the Louisville Free Public Library is increasing. Many popular titles have a hold time of 25+ weeks. With rising prices and increased demand, the size of our collections is falling behind those of peer cities. At the same time, the materials budget has remained stagnant. An increase of \$2 million in the materials budget will help address this disparity.

25+ NEW LIBRARY STAFFERS



An increase in operational funding is crucial to hire the staff needed for the newly renovated and reopened libraries. To meet community expectations, many new positions are required. These dedicated staff members will be essential in making these vital spaces fully functional and vibrant.

PEER CITY COMPARISON

Louisville ranks 87th out of 128 in library spending per capita among libraries serving 400,000 people or more.

NATIONAL
AVERAGE



A NEW ERA FOR LOUISVILLE LIBRARIES IS HERE!



OPERATIONAL FUNDING IS REQUIRED

The Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) is expanding from 17 to 19 locations, with plans to reopen the Parkland Library, expand and renovate the Portland Library, construct a new branch in Fern Creek, and modernize the Main Library. This growth increases the need for operational funding to support new locations. **Allocating resources for staffing and acquiring books and materials to fill the shelves is essential to prevent cuts in programming and hours in the LFPL system.**

DID YOU KNOW? THE LONG WAIT TIMES...

We've all been there—excited to dive into a new book, only to find out there's a long waitlist. Ever wonder why? Here's the scoop:

Budget Constraints: Libraries have to stretch their budgets to cover digital titles, programming, and physical collections. LFPL's books and materials budget has largely remained the same as costs and demand for titles has risen.

High Costs: Some audiobooks can cost as much as \$109 per copy!

Metered Access: Some digital books come with a catch—they expire after a certain number of uses or months. So, if a title is in high demand, the library must repurchase it again and again.

Limited Copies: The more copies available, the shorter the wait. But with budget constraints and high costs, it's not always easy to keep enough copies on hand.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Library Foundation of Louisville dedicates itself to providing the Louisville Free Public Library with the necessary resources to serve our community effectively. Empowering our citizens, enriching the lives of our families, and contributing to the prosperity of our businesses depends on the library's ability to receive appropriate funding and support.

We invite community leaders and citizens of Louisville to join us in advocating for these much-needed library funds.

You can help ensure that everyone in our city has access to the tools, resources, and information needed to flourish. **Together, we can build a stronger library AND a stronger Louisville.**

PARTICIPATE

Visit a library, use services, and share with your friends and family all LFPL has to offer.

ADVOCATE

Talk to your Louisville Metro Councilperson and tell them why public libraries matter to you and our community. Let them know you support library public funding priorities.

DONATE

Donate to the Library Foundation to support library programs, materials, and more.

Visit www.LFPLFoundation.org to sign up for our newsletter and get advocacy updates straight to your inbox.

