

# 2026-27 Louisville Metro Library Funding Priorities



www.LFPLFoundation.org

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The Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) is essential to making a safer, stronger and healthier Louisville. With branches across every part of the community, it is one of the only public places where everyone, regardless of identity, can access free resources that encourage lifelong learning.

LFPL is a cornerstone of this city. Investment in the library supports the well-being of citizens, families and businesses: from young Louisvillians beginning to read, to aspiring entrepreneurs, to older adults discovering new skills and connections.

## LFPL OPERATIONAL FUNDING NEEDS



### \$2 million for books + materials

On an average day, more than 10,000 books and items are checked out; in an average month, over 330,000 materials are circulated to patrons. However, the demand far exceeds what the library has to offer. Last year, wait times for some of the most sought-after titles were over 25 weeks.

The Mayor and Metro Council supported a \$1 million increase, matched by a \$1 million one-time gift from the Library Foundation, Library Advisory Committee, and Friends of the Library. **A permanent increase of \$2 million annually in Metro's operating budget would help keep wait times reasonable for popular items and make sure everyone can find something they love at the library.**



### Increasing staff size to maintain and increase service

The library system has been steadily growing to keep pace with Louisville's growing population. The reopening of the Portland Library, upcoming opening of the new Fern Creek Library and expansion of the Main Library represent major milestones in the city's investment in public infrastructure. **To sustain high-quality service across the system, staffing resources must grow alongside facilities, ensuring all residents continue to benefit from equitable access to library services.**

According to 2024 Kentucky Department of Libraries data, we spend \$22.84 on library staffing per resident, which is \$6 less per resident than the state average, and almost three times less than the top counties, including Bullitt (\$55.78). Library workers are responsible for some of the community's beloved programming including storytimes for new readers, the How-To Festival, and Books and Brews. More library workers mean more high-quality programming for our communities, while still maintaining services like responding to information requests and making sure patrons can check out books and materials.



### Why wait times?

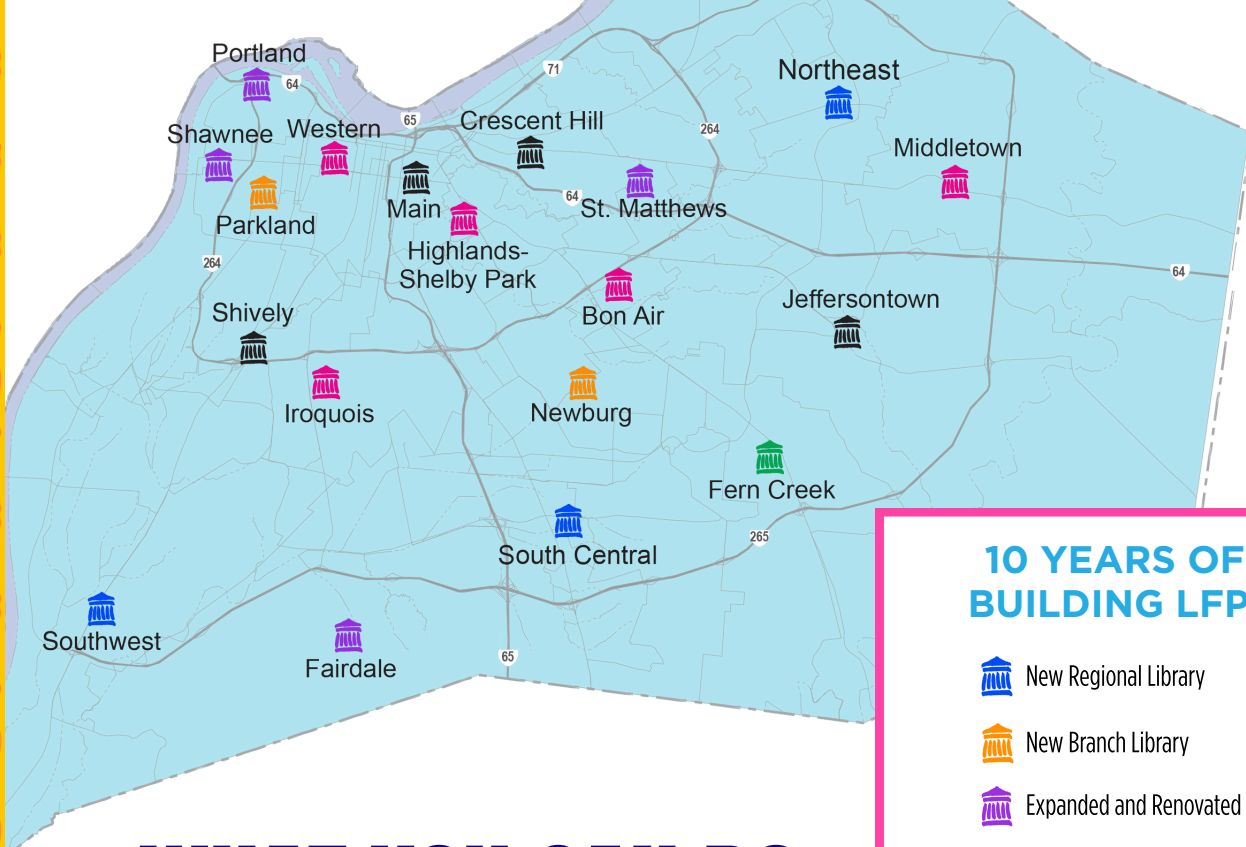
According to 2024 Kentucky Department of Libraries data, LFPL's budget to buy new print and electronic materials was less than that of Lexington, despite serving more than twice as many people. The library's 2024 fiscal year budget included \$3.95 per resident for new materials, lagging behind the state average of \$5.33 per resident.








### A Growing Library System

Since the 2008 Facilities Master Plan for Libraries, three new regional libraries and two new branch libraries have been built to increase accessibility across Jefferson County, and four additional libraries have been expanded and renovated.

# STRONGER LIBRARY STRONGER LOUISVILLE



## 10 YEARS OF BUILDING LFPL

-  New Regional Library
-  New Branch Library
-  Expanded and Renovated
-  Renovated
-  Coming Soon

*\*Capital improvements completed since the 2008 Facilities Master Plan.*

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

Since 1980, the Library Foundation has dedicated itself to benefiting, promoting, supporting and enhancing the programs and services of the Louisville Free Public Library. Libraries are strongest when they are well-funded. The Foundation raises private dollars to enhance library offerings, and advocates for public funding to ensure essential library services, staffing, and buildings can benefit our community for years to come.

*Everyone has a role to play in building a stronger library system. We invite you to join us in advocating for these much-needed library funds.*

## PARTICIPATE

Make the most of your library! Take advantage of all that LFPL has to offer by visiting your neighborhood library, using services, and attending events. Increased visits, program attendance and materials in circulation help make the case for continued investment in libraries. Your stories and experiences matter.

## ADVOCATE

Build a relationship with your Mayor, Metro Councilperson, state and federal elected officials to share why public libraries matter to you and our community. Let them know you support public funding for the libraries.

## DONATE

Your support of the Library Foundation allows us to enhance the work of LFPL. We fund capital projects, programming and events, new books and materials purchases, innovative pilot programs, and more.