

Sunderland Public Library Budget Fact Sheet

The Library faces a potential \$25,000 budget cut.

SPL is a member of a regional, state-funded library system.

Membership allows libraries access to a wide range of services such as eligibility for state aid, access to state-wide interlibrary loan services, and free borrowing privileges at other area libraries. The state agency charged with library oversight provided over a million dollars to help construct our library.

To be part of this system, a library must meet two funding and spending requirements.

The first is the Municipal Appropriations Requirement (MAR), which determines the minimum level of town funding for our library. The second is the Materials Expenditure Requirement (MER), which determines the minimum amount our library must spend on materials. **Even with a level funded budget**, the library barely meets the MAR and falls \$9,000 short of the MER. The required materials spending is currently met through the use of gifts and state aid.

Even a small cut in the library budget could mean exclusion from the state-funded library system—and loss of vital funding and services.

Cuts mean that we would no longer meet state requirements for municipal appropriations or materials expenditures. This means “decertification”—and removal from the state system, with the loss of the funding and services available through that system.

Loss of state funding means even less money for the library.

State aid for FYE 6/30/10 is anticipated to be \$7,728. These potential budget cuts would result in the loss of state aid.

Exclusion from the state-funded library system means a loss of essential library services – services we can't provide on our own

- Loss of access to essential interlibrary loan services—20% of all items borrowed at the SPL.
- Loss of free borrowing privileges at other towns' libraries.
- Loss of bookmobile (books, dvds, large print, audio books that supplement our collection).
- No more access to online research databases made available through C/WMARS and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- Ineligible to participate in a materials & supply purchasing cooperative that allows library members to purchase most books at a 46% discount.
- No services from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System.
- Loss of free continuing education programs for staff.
- Excluded from Library Services and Technology Act grants.

A \$25,000 budget cut would mean even greater damage to library services.

A budget cut of this magnitude would result not only in all the consequences listed above but would also decimate the SPL's materials budget and potentially result in reduced hours of operation, inability to maintain & replace equipment, and other cuts in programs & services.

Private funding sources can help, but municipal funding is required for continued participation in the state-funded library system.

Our library is already dependent upon state aid, grants, the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of the SPL and the good will of community donors. These non-municipal funds pay for a significant portion of the MER and all of our programs. We are fortunate to have this support and we hope that it will continue. However, the town must maintain a minimum level of **MUNICIPAL** support in order to remain in the state system.

This situation has been developing over many years.

The town has been very supportive of the library, funding more than half the cost of constructing our beautiful building. But for many years the budget for running the library has had only modest increases. These increases have gone largely to pay costs over which we have little control or which are dictated by market forces. In places where we can exercise discretion—such as the spending on materials—there has been very little growth.