



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Queens Public Library's Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025

April 9, 2024

To Our Customers:

As you are likely aware, New York City's libraries are facing a proposed \$58.3 million loss of operating funding from the City in Fiscal Year 2025, which begins July 1, 2024. These reductions come on top of a cut we received during the current fiscal year that required the Brooklyn, New York, and Queens public library systems to end seven-day service citywide and reduce spending on our respective collections, programs, and building maintenance and repairs.

For Queens Public Library, the proposed cut for next year translates into a \$16.6 million reduction. This is a devastating blow to our already strained staffing and resources.

These losses, combined with an increase in overall operating costs, mean that QPL would need to continue the suspension of seven-day service and end Saturday service at all our locations except for Central and Flushing libraries. In addition, we would have to further scale back spending on books and library materials, programming, and building maintenance and repairs, and delay the reopening of the Bay Terrace, Broadway, and Hillcrest libraries even after completion of current construction projects at these sites.

People across our city trust and count on libraries for growth and opportunity, and these reductions in service and resources would be catastrophic.

The Library is holding a public hearing on our plan for Fiscal Year 2025 on Thursday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m. at Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. in Jamaica, NY. If you cannot attend the hearing, please send your written comments about our budget through our website, from Thursday, April 18 to Monday, May 20, 2024.

Your feedback is crucial as we finalize our spending priorities for next year. We hope you will make your voices heard.

Sincerely,

Earl G. Simons, Ed.D., Chair, Queens Public Library Board of Trustees

Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, Queens Public Library

Queens Public Library Revenue Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Source	Type	Description	FY 2024 (millions)	%	FY 2025 (millions)	%	Major Variances
NYC Operating	Restricted & Unrestricted	City funds for Operating and Grant Expenses	\$130.1	66%	\$122.1	65%	NYC proposed budget reductions to operating subsidy
NYC Pension	Unrestricted	City funds for Pension Expenses	\$8.5	4%	\$8.5	5%	
Fees	Unrestricted	Lost item fees, lost Library card fees, multifunctional device usage fees	\$0.4	0%	\$0.4	0%	
Federal Grants	Restricted	Federal grants including IMLS, Department of Labor, WIOA, and HUD CDBG	\$2.6	1%	\$2.6	1%	All grants are subject to submission of an application/proposal, most of which are competitive.
NY State Grants	Restricted & Unrestricted	General and Special Library and Literacy Aid. State Aid for construction, Literacy and Programs	\$17.7	10%	\$16.6	9%	All grants are subject to submission of an application/proposal, most of which are competitive.
Fundraising	Restricted & Unrestricted	Foundation and corporate grants, private donations and fundraising events	\$2.1	1%	\$2.1	1%	
Investment Income	Restricted & Unrestricted	Investment earnings on investments & investment fees	\$2.7	1%	\$2.7	1%	
Contributed Facilities	Restricted	Value of the utilities for City-owned buildings, paid by the City directly, and the annual lease value of those buildings	\$32.9	17%	\$32.9	18%	
Contributed Services	Unrestricted	Value of volunteer services	\$0.2	0%	\$0.2	0%	
TOTAL			\$197.2	100%	\$188.1	100%	

Queens Public Library Expense Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Budget Item	Description	FY 2024 (millions)	%	FY 2025 (millions)	%	Major Variance
Library Services	Includes all expenses required to provide Library Services to the public at all locations including all books and materials, wages, benefits and facility costs.	\$93.1	47%	\$89.5	49%	NYC proposed budget reductions to operating subsidy
Library Materials	Includes all expenses required to provide Library Services to the public at all locations including all books and materials, wages, benefits and facility costs.	\$7.5	4%	\$6.0	3%	
Facilities	Custodial, maintenance, repairs, utilities, lease costs, equipment, renovations and value of contributed services	\$50.0	25%	\$47.8	25%	
Programs	Programs for adults, young adults and children, special events, literacy, youth counselors, job and information programs, afterschool programs, summer reading, including staff costs.	\$5.8	3%	\$4.7	2%	
Technology	Software licenses, one-time software development, computers, network equipment, maintenance contracts, RFID equipment, technology staff	\$6.3	3%	\$5.6	3%	
Fundraising Expenses	Expenses for fundraising events and personnel.	\$1.6	1%	\$1.6	1%	
Management & General	Includes expenses for operations and management of Queens Public Library, including Human Resources, Accounting, Legal, & Risk Management.	\$32.9	17%	\$32.9	17%	
TOTAL		\$197.2	100%	\$188.1	100%	