

Delawareans seek assistance from their local libraries to be **SCHOOL Ready!**, **EMPLOYMENT Ready!**, and **HEALTH Ready!** Delaware Libraries are working to fill gaps in services and solve problems in various ways.

In 2018:

- 64%*** of Delaware 4th graders are **NOT proficient in reading**
- 127,000**** Delaware working adults do **NOT earn a livable wage**
- 130,000***** Delaware adults **STRUGGLE** with serious mental illness or substance use disorder

State funding support for libraries is essential to change this.

An additional \$1.00 per resident for Delaware Libraries WILL HELP Delawareans get...

SCHOOL Ready!

Delaware Libraries Provide: Over 500 library programs for children (and parents) of all ages help to spark the joy of reading and learning, which is key to success in school. The Delaware Library Card Campaign strives to ensure that every child obtains a library card and uses it often! Currently **only about 25% of Delaware children have a library card of their own**, and Delaware Libraries are partnering with First Chance, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, and other nonprofits to reach all children.

A patron of the Bridgeville Public Library credits the early literacy programs, featuring stories, rhymes and songs, for successfully preparing her granddaughter for preschool.

- **Goals:** A library card for every child by 2020.
Books for every child – at home, at school libraries, and at the public library.

EMPLOYMENT Ready!

Delaware Libraries Provide: Over 300,000 one-on-one assistance for Delawareans with resumes, online job applications, and workforce skills to master technology and achieve their next level job and career positions. Delaware Libraries partner with the Department of Labor and nonprofits to provide walk-in job and career services.

Two patrons of the Harrington Public Library walked 7 miles to obtain assistance to find jobs.

- **Goals:** Increase library hours, partnerships, Job Fairs and Next Step programs

HEALTH Ready!

Delaware Libraries Provide: Partnerships with the Department of Health and Social Services and nonprofits to provide walk-in health screenings, insurance assistance, and connections with health and opioid support services.

A patron of the Kirkwood Library requesting information on recovery services was so grateful for being treated with respect on her first step to recovery.

- **Goals:** A social worker available for every library by 2020
Increased partnerships to expand access to health and Opioid support services.
200+ library staff trained in mental health responsiveness

Delaware Libraries provide Delawareans with a place to turn to for services, expert advice, and the information needed to be ready for the next step in life.

Delaware Libraries need your help to advance this vital work for all Delawareans!

This increase in funding needs to be a priority for the General Assembly at budget time. Current funding for **Delaware Libraries (Library Standards 200801)** is half a million dollars less than it was 10 years ago.

General Fund Department of State	FY2019 Appropriation	FY2020 Governor's Recommended	Requested Action
200801 Division of Libraries Library Standards	\$4.1 million for 33 libraries	\$4.35 million (TBD)	Provide an additional \$1 million in the FY2020 appropriation for a total of \$5.4 million

Thank you for your use and support of Delaware Libraries!

The Delaware Library Consortium of 70+ libraries in 2018 includes all 33 public, 6 academic, 15 special, and 17 school libraries. Currently 50% of Delawareans have and use a library card; the goal is 100%!

* 2018 Kids Count Profile - <https://tinyurl.com/dereadingdata>
 ** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017 - <https://tinyurl.com/decensusdata>
 *** 2016-2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health - <https://tinyurl.com/desubstanceinfo>

