



Project Title: Assessing the Equity and Stability of Public Library Funding in Michigan
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The overall goal of this study is to develop models of public library funding for the state of Michigan.

As the role of the public library expands, due in large part to increasing technology needs and increases in the population, new public funding sources must be considered. Local funding on the city or county level has been the traditional model for providing funding to public libraries, but there are numerous methods which states can use to do this. These include percentages of specific taxes, creation of new taxes (such as those proposed by the Task Force on interstate phone calls and cable television), mandated millages from the counties and municipalities, or an increased state allocation for library cooperatives.

Specific objectives include the following:

1. Provide a thorough analysis of how public libraries in Michigan are currently funded.
2. Provide a statistical section showing up-to-date revenue comparisons for all public libraries in Michigan with a breakdown by revenue source.
3. Identify current threats to revenue streams and comment as appropriate. (e.g. parallel ordinances in townships reduce penal fine revenue; single business tax elimination; and threats to eliminate personal property tax revenues).
4. Conduct a policy analysis of existing statewide laws affecting the funding of Michigan Public Libraries.
5. Describe the funding relationships between library cooperatives and public libraries and how such funding relationships might evolve in the future.
6. Provide a means of dealing with covering the cost of inflation when considering any funding formula for public libraries and cooperatives.
7. Identify existing funding models in other states that could be adapted to Michigan.
8. Recommend models of public library and cooperative funding for Michigan.
9. Initially, develop a strategy to gain the support of public libraries throughout the state, and subsequently the state legislature, for the recommended funding model.

Michigan