



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**State Library  
of Oregon**

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Salem, OR 97301

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[www.oregon.gov/library](http://www.oregon.gov/library)

November 3, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

The State Library cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement. Statutorily, the State Library of Oregon is charged with providing a wide range of services to several diverse groups, including state employees and the legislature; Oregonians with print disabilities; those providing services at public, academic, school, special, and tribal libraries; and to the people of Oregon.

In response to the request for reduction options ahead of the 2026 legislative session, the State Library of Oregon has developed both 5% and 2.5% reduction lists. The reduction options impact each division at the State Library and affect services that are provided to each of the customer groups that the State Library serves.

### **Approach**

Reductions are listed in priority order by fund type, with the most preferred reduction at the top. These reductions are realistic and realizable in the current biennium and do not require any statutory changes. The core functionality of State Library services could continue, albeit with reduced response times and in some cases, lower service levels.

In developing these reduction options, the State Library initially reviewed the reduction list submitted with the 2025-27 Agency Request Budget in July 2024. Additional insights were provided to the State Library's leadership team from both staff and other service providers.

The State Library routinely reviews expenses and works to use all funds efficiently and effectively. Staff position descriptions are reviewed and updated annually, ensuring work aligns to our mission and allows forward progress on strategic initiatives. The State Library strives to avoid personnel impacts, which would further reduce response times and lower service levels to our customers.

### **Other Fund-Assessment**

Two of the four divisions at the State Library are funded with Other Funds-Assessments: Government Information and Library Services, and Operations.

The State Library provides over one hundred online library resources specifically for state employees to support their research needs. All databases selected for use by state employees are carefully vetted and reviewed yearly for relevance to state work. A reduction of Government Services databases will impact the work of state employees and the ability for State Library reference staff to serve state employees' reference and research requests. This reduction includes the professional development online resource,

O'Reilly, which has very high use but is outside the State Library's core service of supporting research needs.

The highest level of reduction removes one of the Government Service's division team of State Library Specialist (SLS) cataloging assistants that are tasked with cataloging resources, including publications from other state agencies, making them findable in the library's electronic systems. A reduction of this SLS2 position will impact the agency's ability to successfully complete our statutory mandate to make accessible state agencies' public documents.

Operations is the foundation of all work at the State Library, including the technology needs of all staff. The highest level of reduction would lower the hours worked by the Customer Support Specialist that is tasked with providing technical and maintenance support to all State Library employees, increasing the risk of delayed updates and security protocols for computer hardware.

### **General Fund**

The remaining two divisions at the State Library include funding from General Fund: Talking Books and Library Support and Development.

Reducing the Talking Books Professional Services funding can be absorbed without direct impact on user services or personnel but will limit options for providing staff training.

Oregon's public libraries – which checked out over 12 million children's books and had nearly 600,000 attendees at children's programming in fiscal year 2023 – are a critical source of materials and programming supporting youth from birth to 6 to develop early literacy skills and for school-aged youth to maintain literacy skills during the summer. The State Library of Oregon's [Ready to Read grants](#) are a critical source of funding to ensure that people in Oregon have access to high quality, research-based early literacy and summer reading programming, especially for the state's smallest and most rural libraries. Per ORS 357.740-780, the grants are distributed annually to every legally established public library in the state by a formula based 80% on the library's population of children ages 0-14, and 20% on the size of the library's geographic service area. For a significant portion of small and rural libraries, Ready to Read grants are the primary source of funding for youth programming. About 35% of public libraries in Oregon receive the minimum \$1,000 grant award.

Ready to Read funding is the primary option for general fund reductions without personnel impacts. The reduction options to decrease money for Ready to Read grants, given to 140 public libraries throughout Oregon, are not taken lightly. Libraries rely on the annual grants to support early literacy and summer reading programs and services. Ready to Read grants support the Governor and Legislature's priority to improve early learning in the state. While the cuts would not affect the 46 public libraries that receive the mandatory minimum of \$1,000 per year, at the highest level it would be a double-digit percentage cut for 93 other locations. The attached chart includes both scenarios.

### **New and Expanded Programs**

The State Library has no new or expanded programs since July 1, 2021.

Please let me know if additional materials are needed.



Wendy Cornelisen  
State Librarian

Agency Name: State Library of Oregon (SLO)																
2025-27 Biennium																
2025-27 LAB					-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Detail of Reductions to 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/ Div															
1	TB	543	003	Talking Books Professional Services	40,729						\$ 40,729				yes	Reducing the Talking Books Professional Services funding can be absorbed without direct impact on user services or personnel but will limit options for providing staff training.
2	LS	543	002	Ready To Read reduction 1	40,000						\$ 40,000			yes	yes	This reduction decreases money for Ready to Read grants, given to 139 public libraries throughout Oregon. Libraries rely on the annual grants to support early literacy and summer reading programs and services. The grants support the Governor and Legislature's priority to improve early learning in the state. \$40,000 is a 2.3% decrease to the biennial grant total.
3	LS	543	002	Ready To Read reduction 2	54,636						\$ 54,636			no	yes	This reduction decreases money for Ready to Read grants, given to 139 public libraries throughout Oregon. Libraries rely on the annual grants to support early literacy and summer reading programs and services. The grants support the Governor and Legislature's priority to improve early learning in the state.
											\$ -					
4	GS	543	004	Rent reduction			100,417				\$ 100,417			no	No	Assumes a April 1 vacate date. The State Library will move out of two suites and fully implement the DAS Space Utilization Policy. The sources of the other fund for this reduction is Assesement Funds.
6	GS	543	004	Gov Services databases			19,000				\$ 19,000			no	No	Cancels access to the online historical Oregonian newspaper as of July 1, 2025. The sources of the other fund for this reduction is Assesement Funds.
5	OPS	543	001	OPS Other Services & Supplies			5,099				\$ 5,099			no	yes	The sources of the other fund for this reduction is Assesement Funds.
7	GS	543	004	Gov Services databases			28,000				\$ 28,000			no	No	Cancels access to the SCOPUS online resource, as of July 1, 2026. This will impact the work of state employees and the ability for State Library reference staff to serve state employees' reference and research requests. The sources of the other fund for this reduction is Assesement Funds.
8	GS	543	004	Gov Services databases			82,530				\$ 82,530			no	no	Cancels O'Reilly and Pronunciator. These databases are for professional learning support that the State Library provides for state employees. The elimination of these databases is not taken lightly as these databases have a high use rate by state employees. The sources of the other fund for this reduction is Assesement Funds.
				TOTAL	135,365	-	235,046	-	-	-	\$ 370,411	0	0.00			

Target (2.5%)  
Difference

135,365  
-

-  
-

235,046  
-