

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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## WHAT WE DO

The City's three independent library systems (the Libraries): Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), the New York Public Library (NYPL), and Queens Public Library (QPL), provide a wide range of free library services for all New Yorkers. The Libraries oversee 219 local library locations across the five boroughs, including four research library centers. The Libraries offer free and open access to books, periodicals, non-print materials, electronic resources, mobile and streaming technology, and internet access. They also provide reference and career services, professional development, and educational, cultural and recreational programming for adults, young adults, and children. The Libraries' collections include 377 electronic databases and more than 65 million books, periodicals, and other circulating and reference items.

## FOCUS ON EQUITY

As part of the City's social infrastructure, Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Public Library prioritize equitable access to resources for patrons across all five City boroughs. The Libraries' commitment to equity starts with collections. Among homes and communities across the City, there are vast disparities in access and exposure to books, and children in lower-income neighborhoods are less likely to read at their grade level. The Libraries invest in robust collections, as well as book giveaways, that target children in low-income neighborhoods and book deserts — areas where reading materials are difficult to obtain. In addition, the Libraries offer collections that reflect the interests and needs of the diverse communities they serve. To encourage New Yorkers' ongoing use of their library and ensure everyone has access to library resources, no matter their circumstances, the Libraries do not impose late fines on overdue materials.

Library programs and services, particularly those centered around education, further advance the Libraries' focus on equity. Through programs like storytimes, family literacy workshops, and Pre-K partnerships, the Libraries have established themselves as the leading providers of early literacy programs and services in the City. All three systems conduct vital after-school programming, which aim to help students in marginalized communities keep pace with their more affluent peers. Young adult patrons have access to Teen Centers, college and career readiness counseling, one-on-one tutoring, and other innovative programs to promote learning and development in safe and inclusive spaces.

Equity is integral to the Libraries' adult offerings as well. These include financial literacy resources, one-on-one career services, and technology classes that help patrons develop professional competencies, such as coding and website development, among others. These services are particularly valuable to those New Yorkers impacted by the digital divide, job seekers, and those who seek to develop their professional skill set. In addition to in-person programming and services, the three systems offer virtual classes and online resources, which allow the Libraries to reach individuals who are unable to visit their local branch. The City's public libraries also provide vital resources for immigrants such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and civics classes, as well as legal services through ActionNYC in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), Human Resources Administration (HRA), and Immigrant Justice Corps. Between the three library systems, programs such as digital literacy classes, book discussions, storytimes, financial literacy, computer classes, "Know Your Rights" forums, health and wellness programs, and music and arts events, are offered in over 20 languages, depending on the service and location. Programs may be offered in Arabic, American Sign Language, Bengali, Cantonese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, Yiddish, and more.

The Libraries' established services for immigrants and all New Yorkers have positioned them as natural hubs for the tens of thousands of asylum seekers arriving in the City. The Libraries, in partnership with community groups, provide targeted services to distribute resources and information to asylees directly. The three systems also partner with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to supply informational resources to the City's Asylum Seeker Navigation Center. Recently, BPL, NYPL, and QPL joined a number of community-based organizations and MOIA to launch and train staff to lead classes at "English Learning and Support Centers," housed at select library branches. These locations host expanded English language classes, including a new beginner-level course.

The Libraries' far reaching presence in New York communities and commitment to equity yields a credibility and trust that makes them strong and valuable partners to the public, City agencies, and community-based organizations on a wide range of initiatives. Libraries not only function as cooling centers, voting locations, and information hubs for asylum seekers and immigrants, they are also key civic engagement and voter education partners. This includes participating in National Voter Registration Day to make registration forms available to patrons, hosting the Campaign Finance Board's digital toolkit, which includes voting information and resources, and hosting trainings on the Libraries' webpage and panel discussions for low-turnout segments of the population, such as recently-incarcerated citizens, older adults, and voters of color. The Libraries are additionally a critical partner to the New York City Civic Engagement Commission and New York City Council's Participatory Budgeting initiatives, which plays an important role in engaging with communities to be involved in capital budgeting decisions.

The key to patrons' engagement with these programs and services is providing trusted, safe and reliable spaces for all New Yorkers. All three systems work diligently, with limited resources, to renovate existing branches and build new locations when possible, balancing the needs of each neighborhood while prioritizing urgent building repairs. The Libraries assess the conditions and needs of every branch, particularly regarding critical infrastructure, to ensure buildings are properly and equitably cooled, heated, and accessible.

The Libraries continue to be spaces that are uniquely equipped to advance equity in New York City. Whether as a student taking advantage of a Teen Center, an adult building a new professional skill set, a toddler discovering the joys of storytime, or an asylee seeking vital resources to navigate their transition to New York, every New Yorker can count on their libraries for access to the tools, resources, and development opportunities they need to find success in their lives.

# BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	47.0	47.0	48.0	*	*	48.0	48.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	11%	11%	8%	*	*	11%	12%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	98%
★ Circulation (000)	9,318	9,867	9,570	9,600	9,600	3,360	3,210
Reference queries (000)	446	71	34	*	*	88	973
Electronic visits to website (000)	3,008	3,859	5,089	4,000	4,000	1,866	2,717
Computers for public use	2,586	2,600	3,208	*	*	3,208	3,208
Computer sessions (000)	331	602	790	*	*	261	295
Wireless sessions	NA	NA	2,108,600	*	*	953,862	563,585
Program sessions	25,383	55,767	73,337	*	*	22,444	27,117
★ Program attendance	387,494	596,753	816,216	*	*	235,990	274,774
★ Library card holders (000)	1,472	1,409	1,581	1,500	1,500	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	494	591	604	*	*	649	655
New library card registrations	143,441	180,069	238,926	*	*	105,876	67,911
★ Total library attendance (000)	2,979	4,064	5,984	*	*	1,374	2,096
★ Critical Indicator      ● Equity Indicator      "NA" Not Available      ↑↓ Directional Target      * None							

# NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY — BRANCH

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	48.4	48.4	48.0	*	*	48.4	49.1
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	8%	8%	0%	*	*	8%	8%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
★ Circulation (000)	14,310	16,530	17,028	14,500	14,500	5,806	5,592
Reference queries (000)	3,801	4,231	4,614	*	*	1,891	1,989
Electronic visits to website (000)	26,015	23,449	28,333	19,000	19,000	9,886	8,100
Computers for public use	3,748	4,409	4,409	*	*	4,409	5,012
Computer sessions (000)	929	1,222	1,370	*	*	467	508
Wireless sessions	591,454	1,353,853	2,402,971	*	*	842,094	949,390
Program sessions	43,103	84,154	88,586	*	*	27,102	27,700
★ Program attendance	505,595	1,031,424	1,216,843	*	*	371,192	380,000
★ Library card holders (000)	2,111	2,075	2,310	2,000	2,000	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	722	867	1,327	*	*	1,283	1,367
New library card registrations	295,448	407,167	444,783	*	*	195,897	196,841
★ Total library attendance (000)	5,346	7,341	8,006	*	*	2,683	2,900
★ Critical Indicator      ● Equity Indicator      "NA" Not Available      ↑↓ Directional Target      * None							

## NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY — RESEARCH

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	49.4	51.0	49.7	*	*	51.2	51.2
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	33%	33%	0%	*	*	33%	33%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
Reference queries (000)	112	272	278	*	*	96	96
Program sessions	2,623	3,062	2,812	*	*	891	925
★ Program attendance	101,663	126,555	151,468	*	*	39,759	42,000
★ Total library attendance (000)	1,796	3,456	3,898	*	*	1,505	1,443
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	“NA” Not Available	↑↓ Directional Target	* None			

## QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25
★ Average weekly scheduled hours	37.8	44.3	45.0	*	*	45.0	45.0
Libraries open seven days per week (%)	1%	3%	1%	*	*	3%	4%
★ Libraries open six days per week (%)	55%	86%	90%	*	*	90%	91%
★ Circulation (000)	6,738	7,719	8,698	7,000	7,000	2,869	3,617
Reference queries (000)	714	1,028	1,206	*	*	388	414
Electronic visits to website (000)	3,354	3,248	3,498	3,500	3,500	1,040	1,625
Computers for public use	6,095	5,174	4,275	*	*	4,789	2,293
Computer sessions (000)	495	732	840	*	*	287	329
Wireless sessions	466,572	583,803	1,755,367	*	*	322,169	831,562
Program sessions	28,735	53,156	55,399	*	*	18,196	16,966
★ Program attendance	540,604	879,173	966,054	*	*	333,825	316,932
★ Library card holders (000)	1,457	1,548	1,541	1,500	1,500	NA	NA
Active library cards (000)	869	726	716	*	*	713	709
New library card registrations	55,286	92,854	103,778	*	*	36,081	40,303
★ Total library attendance (000)	3,945	5,676	6,332	*	*	2,140	2,260
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	“NA” Not Available	↑↓ Directional Target	* None			

## AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual			Sept. 2024 MMR Plan	Updated Plan	Plan	4-Month Actual	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25 <sup>1</sup>	FY26 <sup>1</sup>	FY24	FY25
Expenditures (\$000,000) <sup>2</sup>	\$431.0	\$473.1	\$461.6	\$488.9	\$497.6	\$480.3	\$188.9	\$194.4
Personnel	3,889	4,108	4,043	4,182	4,360	4,360	4,084	4,154
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$142.1	\$73.2	\$149.9	\$176.3	\$275.4	\$99.9	\$68.3	\$7.0
<sup>1</sup> January 2025 Financial Plan.		<sup>2</sup> Expenditures include all funds		“NA” - Not Available				

# SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Agency expenditures and planned resources by budgetary unit of appropriation.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY24 <sup>1</sup> (\$000,000)	January 2025 Financial Plan FY25 <sup>2</sup> (\$000,000)
Brooklyn Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) <sup>1</sup>	\$129.0	\$139.1
New York Public Library - Branch, Agency Total <sup>1</sup>	\$167.7	\$181.9
003 - Lump Sum - Borough of Manhattan (OTPS)	\$25.8	\$26.3
004 - Lump Sum - Borough of the Bronx (OTPS)	\$24.3	\$24.6
005 - Lump Sum - Borough of Staten Island (OTPS)	\$11.0	\$11.1
006 - Systemwide Services (OTPS)	\$105.3	\$118.7
007 - Consultant and Advisory Services (OTPS)	\$1.4	\$1.4
New York Public Library - Research, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) <sup>1</sup>	\$32.5	\$35.0
Queens Public Library, 001 - Lump Sum Appropriation (OTPS) <sup>1</sup>	\$132.4	\$141.6

<sup>1</sup>These figures are limited to the City's contribution and planned contribution respectively. <sup>2</sup>Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. Includes all funds.

## NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The Fiscal 2024 modified budget value for 'New York Research Library - Research Lump Sum Appropriation' was erroneously published in the Fiscal 2024 Mayor's Management Report as \$33.1 million; the correct modified budget and expenditure value is \$32.5 million.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information on items referenced in the narrative, go to:

- NYC Civic Engagement Commission and City Council's Participatory Budgeting initiative: <https://council.nyc.gov/pb/>

For more information on these libraries, please visit:

- Brooklyn Public Library: [www.bklynlibrary.org](http://www.bklynlibrary.org)
- New York Public Library: [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)
- Queens Public Library: [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org)

