Agency Name: State Library
Agency Code: H870 Section: 27

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*		Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Leesa M. Aiken	(803) 734-8668	laiken@statelibrary.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Chrystal Wiley	(803) 734-8667	cwiley@statelibrary.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Leesa M. Aiken 9/16/26	Andrea F. Kelly 9/16/26
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Leesa M. Aiken	Andrea F. Kelly

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

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Section:	27

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	New Positions and Funding	460,042	0	0	0	460,042	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Increase Aid to County Libraries	1,747,233	0	0	0	1,747,233	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			2,207,275	0	0	0	2,207,275	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**New Positions and Funding**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $460,042** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $460,042**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**6.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The South Carolina State Library's Strategic Directions, as noted below, are in alignment with this budget request. Further details are provided in the justification of the request section of this document.

Strategic Direction 1: Innovation: The South Carolina State Library provides guidance for excellence in library services.

Strategic Direction 2: Collaboration: The South Carolina State Library sustains and enhances its relationships with partners and those we serve.

Strategic Direction 3: Participation: The South Carolina State Library provides equitable access to information.

Strategic Direction 4: Preservation: The South Carolina State Library protects and promotes cultural heritage in the state.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template

of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	These funds will be used as personnel costs associated with salary and fringe for six new positions.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The South Carolina State Library has been functioning with roughly the same number of staffing allocations for over twenty years, however the manner in which we deliver services and meet our associated mandates has changed significantly. The State Library plays a crucial role in preserving and documenting South Carolina's history, as the State's documents depository for all documents created by every state agency. In FY25, we secured nearly $300,000 of funding to purchase a new state-of-the-art digitization scanner, which allows us to digitize larger quantities and a variety of items in our collection. We did not secure additional positions at that time because we needed time to procure the equipment and train existing staff. However, the equipment has been installed and is now operational. We have six scanners in the digitization area of our agency and only two dedicated staff. We are requesting the addition of two new positions for this area so that we may fully utilize the capabilities of the digitization scanner and preserve our state's historical documents with greater efficiency and precision. The State Library's collection includes materials dating back as far as the late 1700s, making this investment critical for the preservation of South Carolina's rich heritage. The State Library is legislatively mandated as the document depository for the state. In addition, we have expanded our preservation area by acquiring a Kasemake CXD box-making machine. This advanced piece of equipment will enable the library to produce custom-sized phase boxes, tailored precisely to the dimensions of individual items. Some items in the State Library's collection are fragile and will only continue to age over time, but must be preserved as part of the State's record. The Kasemake machine has significantly enhanced our preservation efforts as stewards of the State documents collection, ensuring long-term protection and minimizing further deterioration due to improper storage or handling. This is a new area of focus for the State Library and requires adding two positions to operate the new $280,000 Kasemake machine. During FY25, South Carolina public libraries circulated over 28 million items and had 10.8 million library visits. The South Carolina State Library plays a critical role in supporting these institutions by offering direct expertise and guidance to public libraries, county library boards, and local government entities. As legislative changes affecting libraries continue to be introduced and implemented, the demand for consulting services and strategic support from the State Library has steadily increased. We are operating with the same number of consultants (4) that we have been operating with for over 20 years; we are requesting the addition of two new positions in our Library Development area. This ongoing engagement ensures that libraries remain responsive, well-informed, and equipped to navigate an evolving policy landscape. The South Carolina State Library is experiencing a sustained period of strategic growth and increasing statewide impact. As demand for our programs and services continues to rise across multiple sectors, we must expand our staffing capacity to keep pace with these evolving responsibilities. The addition of new positions is essential to maintaining service excellence, supporting innovation, and ensuring that we can effectively meet the diverse and growing needs of our customer base, which includes public libraries, educators, government agencies, individuals who are blind or print-disabled, students, researchers, and the general public.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Increase Aid to County Libraries

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $1,747,233

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $1,747,233

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

These funds are pass-through funds to all public libraries in the state. The State Library does not retain any of these funds for agency use.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

These funds are distributed to public libraries across the state according to a per capita formula and a minimum grant.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	South Carolina is among the fastest-growing states in the United States, ranking fifth; between 2024 and 2025, the population increased by 80,000 people. During FY25, over 26.2 million items were borrowed from a public library; there were over 10.8 million visits to a public library and nearly 60,000 programs were held in a public library. Over half of South Carolinians are public library cardholders. Disbursement of state aid to county libraries funding combined with local dollars provides much-needed access to library services. These funds are used to expand literacy and summer reading programs, increase electronic resources and e-books, upgrade computers and telecommunication equipment, and expand material collections. Without these additional funds, public libraries will be limited in their offerings of programs, materials, and valuable technology to aid in literacy and workforce development.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$799,506 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None - reductions would be taken from state aid and payroll. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	State Aid to County Library funds make up 67% of the State Library's budget. The bulk of any reduction would have to be taken from this line item, which would reduce public libraries' ability to serve the members of their communities with literacy programs, workforce development, and available technology and internet access. The remaining funding would be taken from payroll in the form of a furlough or excess payroll dollars. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	A 3% reduction in funds includes Aid to County Library funds, which make up 67% of the State Library's budget. Of the $799,506 anticipated reduction, $535,668 would be reduced from the Aid to County Library funds with the remaining $263,836 being taken from excess salary dollars or furlough of staff.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

The State Library operates on a very small budget and uses allocated resources to their fullest potential. We leverage partnerships and consortia purchasing agreements to reduce the cost to the state for various programs and projects. The State Library cannot reduce funds by $50,000 and continue to fulfill agency mandates.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Discus, South Carolina's Virtual Library for the K-12 Community

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

$73,000,000 per year

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION

The South Carolina State Library saves the state over $73,000,000 in cost avoidance every year by leveraging the state's funds for Discus. The South Carolina State Library negotiates statewide contracts with vendors for products included in Discus, for approximately $3,200,000 per year. If each school and library purchased the same products individually, the cost would exceed $75,000,000. Discus provides all South Carolinians with equal access to accurate information. Below is a specific breakout of cost avoidance calculation.

Vendor Name	Cost Avoidance
Britannica	$ 7,119,628
Capstone (PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next)	$ 2,700,000
EBSCO	$ 17,894,693
Gale Databases	$ 14,043,666
Gale eBooks	$ 12,437,680
Infobase including Credo Reference	$ 14,070,506
ProQuest (CultureGrams)	$ 1,880,613
TeachingBooks	$ 1,440,000
TumbleBooks	$ 2,013,796
Tutor.com	$ 1,708,000
Total	$ 75,308,582

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

N/A

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION

N/A

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

The South Carolina State Library's mission, vision, goals, and objectives center on creating an environment with equal access to information that supports growth both personally and professionally for individuals and businesses. We believe in leveraging our funding to provide access to quality resources. We have found that partnerships help us

achieve our goals by enabling us to share resources and achieve broader impact. Our partners include USC, SC Department of Education, SC ETV, South Carolina Homeschool Association, SC State Museum, South Carolina 250, SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, First Steps, South Carolina Commission for the Blind, and the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission.

The Discus collection of more than 70 subscription databases is available 24/7 and supports **K-12** schools, public libraries, and academic institutions. All K-12 schools, including charter, virtual, public, home, and private, use Discus extensively for research, learning, and programming.

SUMMARY

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?