

Public Library Assistance Grant Reduction

Cooper Landing Community Library
Virginia Morgan, Volunteer Director
cooperlandinglibrary@gmail.com



Devastating News

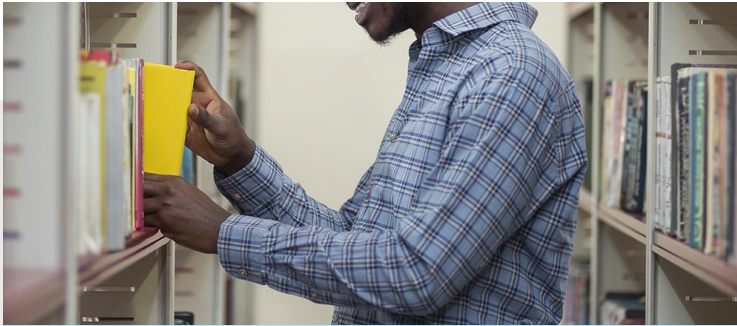
- August 16 - Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan, Director of Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums, reduced Public Library Assistance Grants for FY25.
- Grants were reduced from **\$7,000** to **\$1,829** for over 80 libraries in the state.
- Severe consequences for small rural libraries.

Background

- Governed by AK Statute 14.56.300.
- Up to \$7,000 per public library.
- Must be matched by local money, the fair value of volunteer labor, or a combination.
- Must provide at least the following services free of charge to residents:
 - a collection of books and other materials for loaning;
 - interlibrary loan services;
 - children's programs;
 - reference information.
- Spend at least \$3,500 on library materials and on-line services .



Reporting Requirements



Each library receiving the PLA Grant must complete a **comprehensive annual report** with information about the library's activities, data, and statistics in the past year.



These data relay important information about the **educational, informational, economic, cultural, and recreational needs** of library patrons in Alaska.

Funding Changes

- Consistent and predictable funding for at least 37 years
- Alaska Public Library Statistics from FY1987 to present
- Over \$411,605 cut from FY 24 to FY 25, nearly 74% reduction

FY22

\$608,969

87 libraries

FY23

\$602,000

86 libraries

FY24

\$561,605

79 libraries

FY25

\$150,000

82 libraries
(projected)

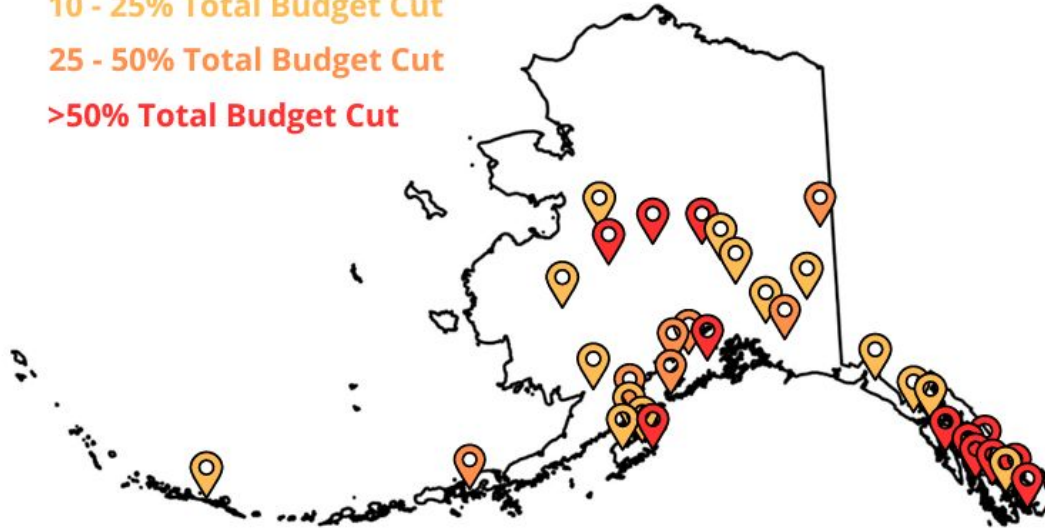
Alaska Libraries Most Affected

Map shows 34 out of 82 libraries/outlets receiving the PLA Grant in FY25

10 - 25% Total Budget Cut

25 - 50% Total Budget Cut

>50% Total Budget Cut



State of Alaska Map Source: GISGeography.com

Data based on library budgets reported on FY23 PLA Grant Reports

A stack of several old, worn books with yellowed pages and dark covers, positioned at the bottom of the slide. The books are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

\$51,710

Approximate loss of revenue for Kenai Peninsula's Libraries

Kenai Peninsula's Volunteer Libraries



Anchor Point



Cooper Landing



Hope



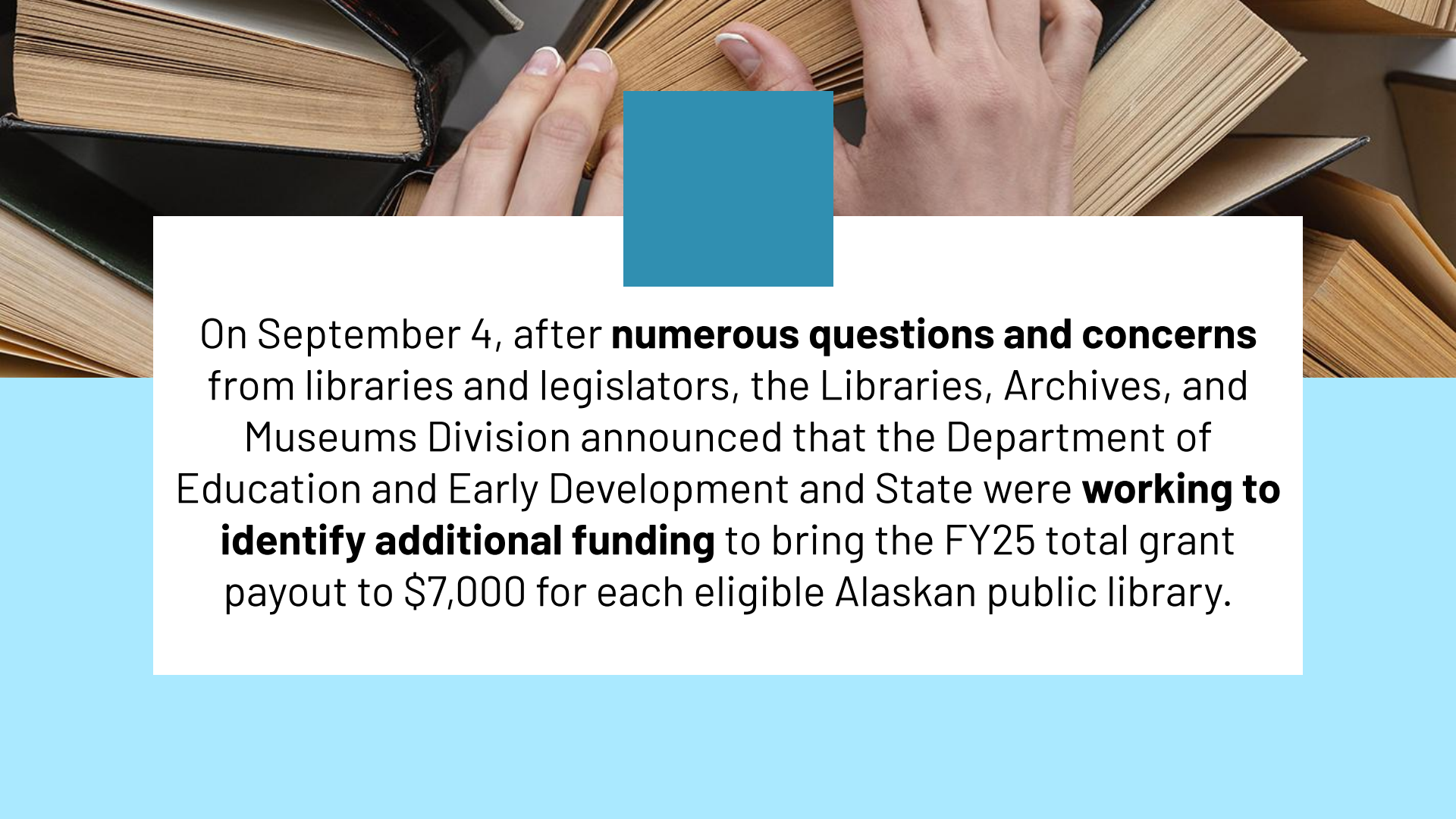
Moose Pass



Ninilchik



Seldovia



On September 4, after **numerous questions and concerns** from libraries and legislators, the Libraries, Archives, and Museums Division announced that the Department of Education and Early Development and State were **working to identify additional funding** to bring the FY25 total grant payout to \$7,000 for each eligible Alaskan public library.

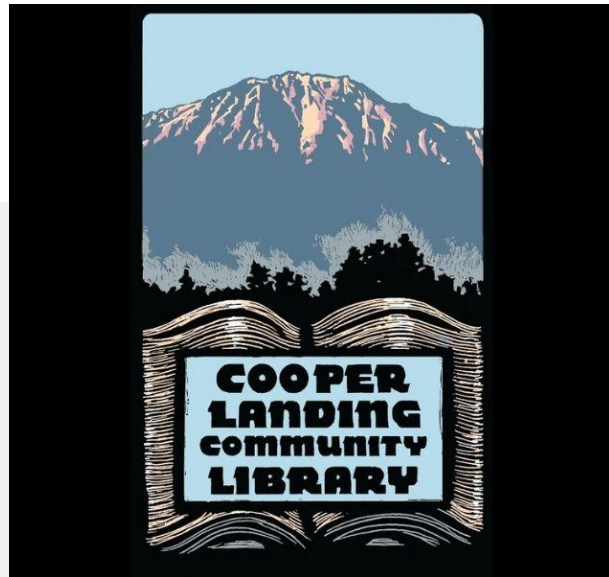
How you can help

- Donate to small libraries!
- Email eed.library.grants@alaska.gov with comments and concerns about this cut to PLA Grant funding.
- Let the Governor and state legislators know the value libraries provide to their communities and how much they depend on state support.



Thank You

Questions? Email cooperlandinglibrary@gmail.com.



SCAN TO DONATE

