# **FY25 Budget Request**

**Approved FY24: \$1,219,515** 

#### **FY25 Initiatives:**

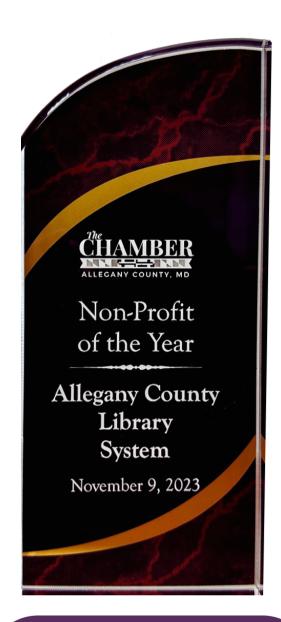
- \$57,000 for a 4% wage increase for our dedicated library staff
- \$10,000 for Time to Care Act funding
- \$41,000 for an additional Program Specialist to meet the demand for programs and outreach
- \$21,000 for rising costs of goods & services

**FY25 Budget Request: \$1,348,515** 

These funds are imperative to continue to effectively address the growing needs and demands of our community!

Additional details of the library's proposed budget are available at:

alleganycountylibrary.info/board-of-trustees



"The library is the most important sense of community I have in my life. I have seen first-hand how the Allegany County Libraries have positively impacted the lives of every individual that walks through their doors.

It goes without saying the library has provided me and my family countless hours of entertainment, inspiration, and learning. The library should be at the forefront of everyone's mind when they ask themselves, "What makes a community a community?"

-Local Library Supporter



# OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM



Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request



### **Community Health & Wellness**

Our Library promotes community health and wellness by providing classes and programs on mental health, physical fitness, nutrition, and also fosters meaningful social connections through these gatherings. Notably, we've witnessed a remarkable 23% growth in program attendance, signaling strong engagement with our offerings, alongside achieving a 10-year high.



#### **Access to Info & Resources**

Our library helped distribute over 3,000 Chromebooks, ensuring access to essential technology for education, work, health, and connectivity, adding over \$614,250 of value to the community. Moreover, digital access is more crucial than ever, reflected in the 17% growth in digital checkouts over last year. We also launched mobile printing at all our locations for added convenience.



## **Early Literacy**

Our library fosters early literacy through Story Time in the Park, reading challenges, and collections that cultivate a love for reading and learning together, nurturing lifelong literacy skills for families. Through this success, we've seen a 20% rise in early literacy program attendance alone over last year.



Vanessa didn't know any English when she came to America 20 years ago. She learned by reading children's books at the Washington Street Library. Now her children, Jackson and Brooklyn, are top readers at their schools. Jackson holds his school's highest Accelerated Reader score ever!



# **Community Resilience**

Our library provides essential community health supplies including a Narcan vending machine and COVID tests, promoting health preparedness and community support in times of need. Individuals who initially visited the library during times of need have continued to engage with our services, contributing to a 10% increase in new library users.



# **Family Fun and Safe Spaces**

Our library offers a welcoming space for all ages, fostering family fun through diverse programs, events, and resources. We create memorable experiences and strengthen community connections through the shared enjoyment of learning and leisure. This commitment to community engagement has led to a noteworthy 16% increase in library visits over last year.



Patrons share that they are thrilled to learn you can checkout more than just books! Borrowing books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, tools, and more save each library user an average of over \$1,100 per year.

Our Library is an essential lifeline in this economic climate.