BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING PICTURE

Population Served: 954,236 (2020 Census)  
Circulation: 5,956,410 (2022)

Library Locations: 39*  
Operating Budget: $30,474,037 (2022)  
Per Capita: $31.74 (2022)

*Includes Central Library, Buffalo Branches, Contracting Libraries, and Library mobile services

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL)  
System Board of Trustees  
15 Members, appointed by the Erie County Executive and the Erie County Legislature

B&ECPL System Director  
Appointed by B&ECPL Board

The Director serves as the administrative, executive and fiscal officer of the B&ECPL System under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The Director also oversees business affairs, administration and employees of the Central Library and the eight Buffalo branches.

Contracting Libraries  
Contract for Services from Library System

Each of the 22 contracting libraries has its own Board of Trustees. Libraries annually contract with the System for services, including circulation, technology, programming, materials, etc. The System provides funding for almost all of the operations of member libraries, while the local municipality or membership association provides for the library building and capital needs.

Association of Contracting Libraries (ACT Board)  
Acts as a Liaison

Promotes cooperation among member libraries, provides a forum for exchange of information and ideas, and is a mechanism for liaison between the contracting libraries, their trustees and staff, and the B&ECPL trustees and staff.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees consists of 15 members who serve five-year terms on a rotating schedule. The trustees are appointed by the Erie County Executive, who appoints ten members (two each calendar year), and the Mayor of Buffalo, who appoints five members (one each calendar year). All recommended trustees are subject to confirmation by the Erie County Legislature.
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Funding Picture

Taxpayers/Erie County Property Owners
Library Property Tax $26,435,688 in 2022

A local law, the Library Protection Act, dedicates a portion of Erie County’s real property tax for library purposes and guarantees that funds appropriated by the Legislature cannot be reappropriated to cover mid-year shortfalls elsewhere in the County budget.

Library Charges and Fines
Payments of overdue or lost materials such as books, processing and other related fees, and charges. $214,152 in 2022.

Fund Balance-Onetime Sum
The Library System Board of Trustees voted to utilize $1,353,642 in unassigned fund balance in 2022.

New York State Aid
Formula aid is provided by the Governor & State Legislature for public library systems. State aid supports programs & services such as Interlibrary Loan delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation & internet access. Direct formula aid to assist individual public libraries is provided by the Local Service Aid program through library systems. Libraries that meet minimum standards set by the Education Department can receive this aid. $2,194,286 in 2022.

Other
Revenues include but are not limited to fundraising. $276,269 in 2022.

Total 2022 Operating Budget $30,474,037 100%