New York City Council
Hon. Adrienne Adams, Speaker of the Council
Hon. Justin Brannan, Chair Finance Committee
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Chair, Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations Committee

Report on the Fiscal 2026 Executive Plan and the Fiscal 2026 Executive Capital Commitment Plan for Committee on Finance and Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations

Prepared By:
Sandra Gray, Financial Analyst
Aliya Ali, Unit Head

Tanisha S. Edwards, CFO and Deputy Chief of Staff
Richard Lee, Director
Jonathan Rosenberg, Managing Deputy Director
Chima Obichere, Deputy Director
Eisha Wright, Deputy Director
Paul Scimone, Deputy Director
Elizabeth Hoffman, Assistant Director

Fiscal 2026 Executive Plan

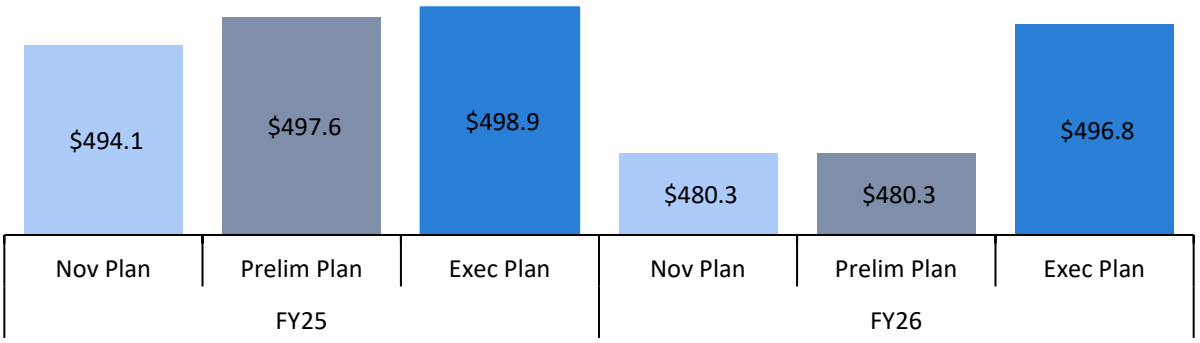
Libraries Budget Overview

The New York City public libraries (the System) are comprised of three independent library systems: Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), the New York Public Library (NYPL), and Queens Public Library (QPL), offering an extensive range of services for all of New York. The Libraries' collections include circulations, periodicals, 377 electronic databases and more than 65 million books. The Libraries' consist of 219 local branches across the five boroughs of New York City, and four research library centers in Manhattan, servicing millions of individuals each day. Each system receives City tax-levy funds for operational and energy support, as well as capital funds for maintenance of the 219 branches managed by the systems. The Systems also receive capital funds to create new branches and/or specialized centers.

The Executive Financial Plan for Fiscal 2025-2029 (Executive Plan), includes a proposed Fiscal 2026 budget of $496.8 million for the System. Libraries' Fiscal 2025 budget in the Executive Plan is $1.3 million (0.3 percent) more than its current $497.6 million Fiscal 2025 budget in the Preliminary Plan, and the Fiscal 2026 budget in the Executive Plan is $16.4 million (3.3 percent) more than its $480.3 million Fiscal 2026 budget in the Preliminary Plan. The current Fiscal 2026 budget is $7.9 million more than the $488.9 million Fiscal 2025 budget at adoption. This report only includes information on the Library Systems' City funds, but the Systems budgets also include funding from other sources such as direct payments from the State, endowments, and

donations. For additional information on Libraries Preliminary Budget, please refer to the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget report.[1]

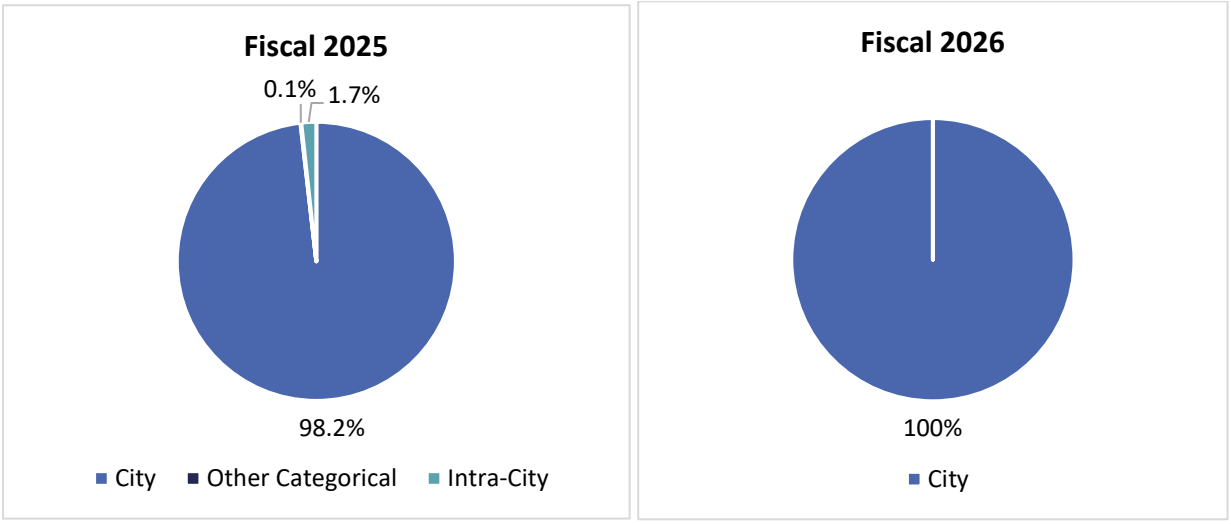
Comparison of the Last Three Financial Plans



Dollars in Millions
Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*

Budget by Funding Source

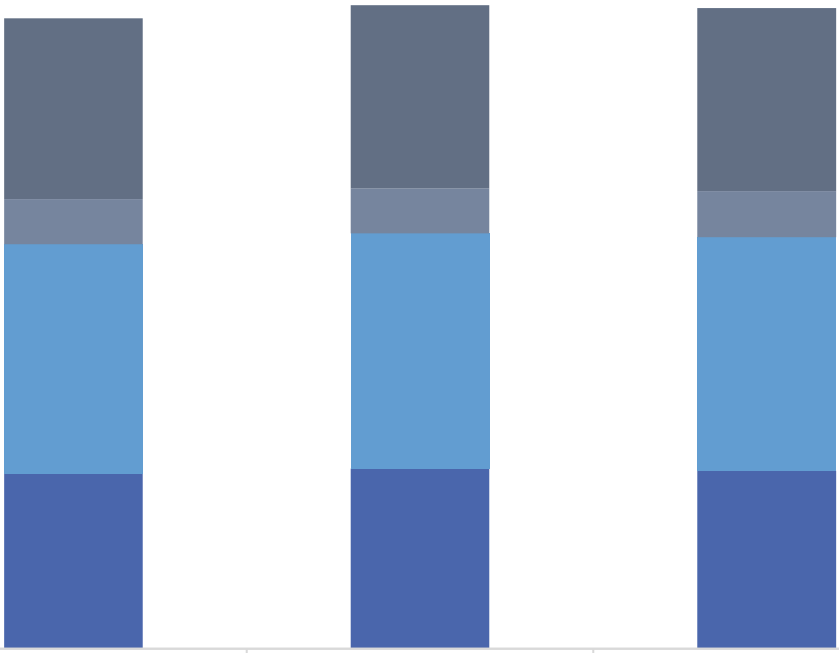
Fiscal 2026 City Funds: ***100.0 percent***



Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*

[1] New York City Council, "Report on the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Plan and the Fiscal 2024 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report for the Department of Cultural Affairs", as of March 2025.

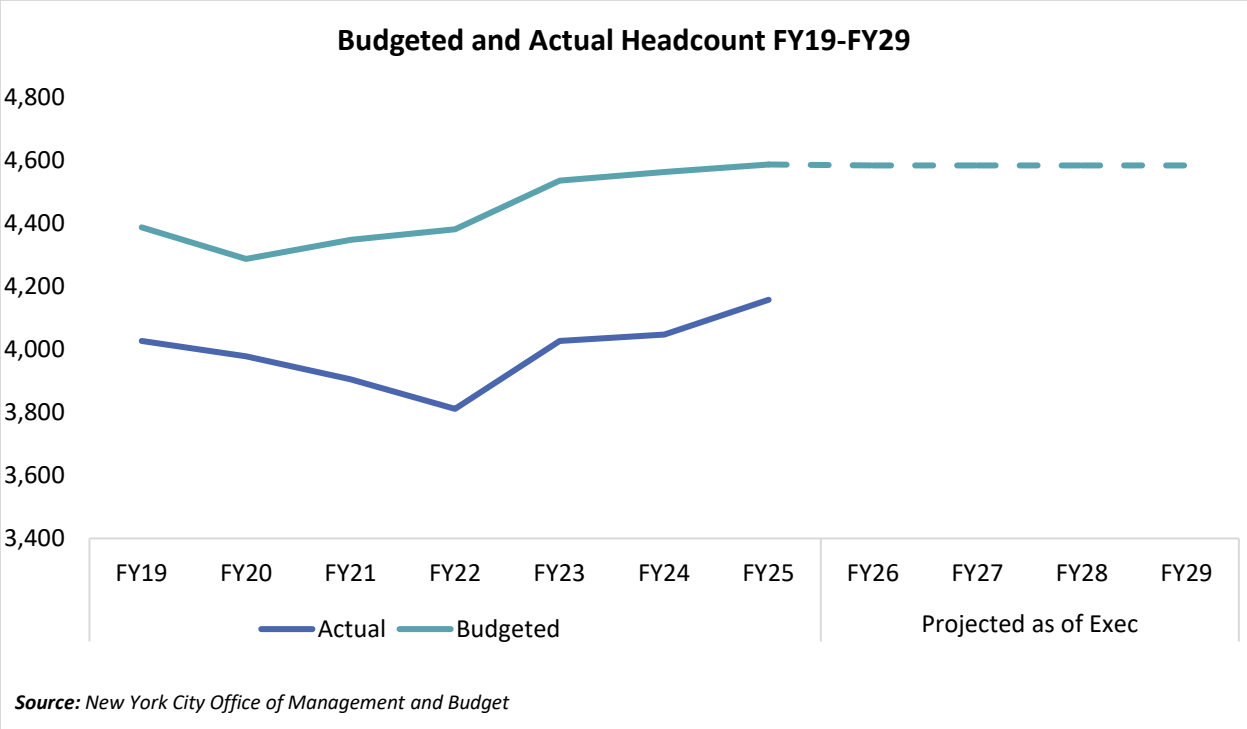
Budget by Library System



	FY25 Adopted	FY25 Executive	FY26 Executive
QBPL	$140,195	$141,798	$141,936
NYRL	$34,995	$35,043	$35,699
NYPL	$178,172	$182,440	$181,164
BPL	$135,508	$139,650	$137,961

Headcount

Fiscal 2025 Budgeted Full-Time Positions: ***4,586***
Actual Headcount as of March 2025: ***4,157***
Vacancy Rate as of March 2025: ***9.4 percent***



Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*

Note: Budgeted and actual headcounts are as of the end of the fiscal year, except for FY26 where budgeted headcount is as of the Executive Plan and actual headcount is as of March 2025.

Executive Plan Changes

FY25 = $1.3	FY26 = $16.4	FY27 = $.7	FY28 = $.7	FY29 = $.7
New Needs = $0	New Needs = $15.7	New Needs = $0	New Needs = $0	New Needs = $0
Other Adjustments = $1.3	Other Adjustments = $0.7	Other Adjustments = $0.7	Other Adjustments = $0.7	Other Adjustments = $0.7
Savings = $0	Savings = $0	Savings = $0	Savings = $0	Savings = $0

Significant Executive Plan Changes

New Needs

- **Additional Operating Funding to the Operating Systems**. The Executive Plan includes an additional $15.7 million in City funding in Fiscal 2026, for the System (BPL - $4.4 million, NYPL - $5.8 million, NYRL- $1.1 million and QPL - $4.4 million) to support their daily operating costs including maintenance, public service positions, collections, pagers, and programming.

Other Adjustments

- **Heat, Light Power.** The Executive Plan includes an additional $806,033 in Fiscal 2025 and $725,679 in Fiscal 2026 and outyears for the annual increase in utility cost for the Library Systems.

Dollars in Millions
Savings in this chart are the sum of all expense savings, from all revenue sources, including but not limited to, City, State, and federal savings.

Budget Response

Fiscal 2026 Expense Proposal Estimate: ***$62.5 million***
Expense Proposals Included in the Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget: ***$15.7 million***

In the City Council's Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget Response, the Council identified areas of concern relating to the Libraries. The budget response called on the Administration to add $62.5 million in expense baselined funding for the City's three library systems starting in Fiscal 2026. The funding would provide $44.8 million for the library systems' unmet expense needs for Fiscal 2026, baseline the Council's longtime support of $15.7 million, and provide $2 million for the expansion of 7-day library service to 10 additional branches citywide. The budget response also included a call for an additional $345 million for unmet capital needs for the System, which includes urgent projects like roofs, HVAC systems, fire safety, and accessibility upgrades. The Budget Response also called for an inclusion of additional funding for library capital needs in the Ten-Year Plan, including $1.2 billion over the next ten years.[2] The Executive Plan includes the following, as shown in the table.

FY26 Budget Response Items			
#	**Response Priorities**	**Amount Requested**	**Amount in the Exec Budget**
1	Library Support and Restoration and 7-Day Library Service Expansion	$62.5	$15.7
2	Library Unmet Capital Need	$345.0	$0

Dollars in Millions
** Capital proposal, not included in the total above.*

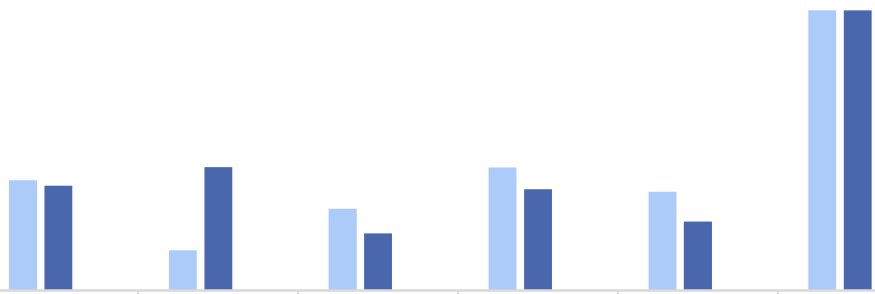
Capital Plan Overview

- Libraries' commitments, as presented in the Executive Capital Commitment Plan for Fiscal 2025-2029 (the Executive Commitment Plan), total $1.1 billion, 0.4 percent greater than the total for the same period presented in the Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan released in January.
- The Department's planned commitments comprise 1.0 percent of the City's total $110.98 billion Fiscal 2025-2029.

[2] New York City Council, "Response to the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget and Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report", as of April 2025.

Capital Commitment Plan

Fiscal 2025-2029 Capital Commitment Plan



	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Total FY25-FY29
Preliminary Plan	$275,375	$99,946	$203,929	$307,102	$246,320	$1,132,672
Executive Plan	$261,504	$308,018	$142,732	$252,790	$172,426	$1,137,470
% Change	(5.0%)	208.2%	(30.0%)	(17.7%)	(30.0%)	0.4%

Dollars in Millions/Thousands
Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*

Brooklyn Public Library: The Executive Commitment Plan includes $424.9 million (including City and non-city) in Fiscals 2025 through 2029 for capital projects at the BPL branches.

- **Brownsville Overhaul.** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $15.5 million in Fiscal 2025-2029 for the full branch renovation of the Brownsville Branch, including rooftop addition, additional public service space, new landscaping, new green roof, new security and fire safety systems, and a new mechanical electrical and plumbing system.
- **Eastern Parkway Overhaul.** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $31.5 million in Fiscal 2025-2029 for the full branch renovation of the Eastern Parkway Branch which includes improving ADA access, expanding programming and staff spaces, expansion of Adult Learning Center, creation of outdoor seating areas, and updating building systems.

New York Public Library. The Executive Commitment Plan includes $285.3 million (including city and non-city) in Fiscals 2025 through 2029 for capital projects at the NYPL branches.

- **Westchester Square Replacement Branch.** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $32.0 million for the construction of a new Westchester Square Branch. This is a two-step procurement for the design-builder from the third quarter of 2025 to the third quarter of 2026. The overall anticipated design-build schedule is three years, starting in 2026.
- **Woodlawn Heights Branch Expansion.** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $5.5 million for the renovation and expansion of the Woodlawn Heights Branch.

Research Library. The Executive Commitment Plan includes $18.3 million (including city and non-city) in Fiscals 2025 through 2029 for capital projects at the Research Libraries.

Queens Borough Public Library. The Executive Commitment Plan includes $408.9 million (including City and non-city) in Fiscals 2025through 2029 for capital projects at the QBPL branches.

- **Jackson Heights Branch Expansion and Renovation –** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $23.4 million for the renovation of the Jackson Heights Branch.
- **North Forest Main Entry Accessibility -** The Executive Commitment Plan includes $8.5 million for the renovation of a new North Forest Park Branch, including the main entrance.

Budget Action Chart

Dollars in Thousands	FY25			FY26		
	City	**Non-City**	**Total**	**City**	**Non-City**	**Total**
NYPL Research	$34,995	$0	$34,995	$34,399	$0	$34,399
NYPL	178,274	3,641	181,915	174,846	0	174,846
BPL	135,482	3,595	139,077	133,513	33	133,546
QBPL	140,295	1,342	141,637	137,543	0	137,543
Libraries Budget as of the FY26 Preliminary Plan	**$489,046**	**$8,578**	**$497,624**	**$480,301**	**$33**	**$480,334**
Changes Introduced in the FY26 Executive Plan						
New Needs						
Research Additional Funding	$0	$0	$0	$1,099	$0	$1,099
NYPL Additional Funding	0	0	0	5,840	0	5,840
BPL Additional Funding	0	0	0	4,380	0	4,380
QBPL Additional Funding	0	0	0	4,380	0	4,380
Subtotal, New Needs	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$15,700**	**$0**	**$15,700**
Other Adjustments						
Research: Heat Light and Power	$48	$0	$48	$201	$0	$201
NYPL: Heat Light and Power	115	0	115	478	0	478
NYPL I/C MOIA NYPL ESOL	0	350	350	0	0	0
NYPL ICE25PM059	0	61	61	0	0	0
BPL: Heat Light, Power	482	0	482	34	0	34
BPL: I/C MOIA BPL ESOL	0	350	350	0	0	0
BPL: ICE25PM045	0	(260)	(260)	0	0	0
QBPLL: Heat Light, Power	161		161	13	0	13
Subtotal, Other Adjustments	**$806**	**$501**	**$1,307**	**$726**	**$0**	**$726**
Research	$48	$0	$48	$1,300	$0	$1,300
NYPL	115	411	526	6,318	0	6,318
BPL	482	90	572	4,414	0	4,414
QBPL	161	0	161	4,393	0	4,393
TOTAL, All Changes in the FY26 Executive Plan	**$806**	**$501**	**$1,307**	**$16,426**	**$0**	**$16,426**
Libraries Budget as of the FY26 Executive Plan	**$489,852**	**$9,079**	**$498,931**	**$496,727**	**$33**	**$496,760**

Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*

Budget by Program Area

New York Research Library

Dollars in Thousands

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Adopted	Executive Plan FY25	Executive Plan FY26	*Difference FY26-FY25
Spending						
Other Than Personal Services						
Fixed and Misc. Charges	$29,611	$29,346	$31,522	$31,522	$32,025	$503
Other Services and Charges	3,378	3,119	3,473	3,522	3,674	201
TOTAL	**$32,989**	**$32,466**	**$34,995**	**$35,043**	**$35,699**	**$704**
Funding						
City Funds			$34,995	$35,043	$35,699	$704
TOTAL	**$32,989**	**$32,466**	**$34,995**	**$35,043**	**$35,699**	**$704**

**The difference between the Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget and the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.*

New York Public Library

Dollars in Thousands

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Adopted	Executive Plan FY25	Executive Plan FY26	*Difference FY26-FY25
Spending						
Other Than Personal Services						
Fixed & Misc. Charges	$168,448	$162,120	$171,733	$175,886	$174,247	$2,514
Other Services & Charges	6,193	5,598	6,440	6,554	6,917	478
TOTAL	**$174,642**	**$167,718**	**$178,172**	**$182,440**	**$181,164**	**$2,992**
Funding						
City Funds			$178,172	$178,389	$181,164	$2,992
Other Categorical			0	313	0	0
Intra City			0	3,739	0	0
TOTAL	**$174,642**	**$167,718**	**$178,172**	**$182,440**	**$181,164**	**$2,992**

**The difference between the Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget and the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.*

Brooklyn Public Library

Dollars in Thousands

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Adopted	Executive Plan FY25	Executive Plan FY26	*Difference FY26-FY25
Spending						
Other Than Personal Services						
Fixed & Misc. Charges	$128,054	$126,296	$132,552	$136,211	$134,970	$2,418
Other Services & Charges	2,887	2,681	2,955	3,437	2,989	34
Supplies & Materials	0	0	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	**$130,941**	**$128,977**	**$135,508**	**$139,650**	**$137,961**	**$2,453**
Funding						
City Funds			$135,482	$135,964	$137,928	$2,446
Other Categorical			0	124	0	0
Intra City			26	3,561	33	7
TOTAL	**$130,941**	**$128,977**	**$135,508**	**$139,650**	**$137,961**	**$2,453**

**The difference between the Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget and the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.*

Queens Public Library

Dollars in Thousands

	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Adopted	Executive Plan FY25	Executive Plan FY26	*Difference FY26-FY25
Spending						
Other Than Personal Services						
Fixed & Misc. Charges	$131,002	$129,056	$136,402	$137,769	$138,130	$1,728
Other Services & Charges	3,500	3,287	3,794	3,955	3,807	13
Supplies & Materials	48	70	0	75	0	0
TOTAL	**$134,550**	**$132,414**	**$140,195**	**$141,798**	**$141,936**	**$1,741**
Funding						
City Funds			$140,195	$140,456	$141,936	$1,741
State			0	1	0	0
Federal			0	7	0	0
Intra City			0	1,334	0	
TOTAL	**$134,550**	**$132,414**	**$140,195**	**$141,798**	**$141,936**	**$1,741**

**The difference between the Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget and the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.*

Source: *New York City Office of Management and Budget*