



Public Library Fund

The Public Library Fund (PLF), formerly known as the Library and Local Government Support Fund, was created by the General Assembly in 1985 as part of a broader effort to phase out the intangible personal property tax. The fund was designed to offset the loss of revenue from the intangibles tax, then a key source of revenue for local libraries, by directing a share of state income tax collections to a fund established in each county. In turn, county officials distribute the revenue from that county fund to libraries and local governments.

The PLF was reorganized and renamed under the 127th General Assembly, the name of the state fund was changed from the Library and Local Government Support Fund to the Public Library Fund.

During the 2014 calendar year, counties received approximately \$345.1 million from the PLF.

Revenue Sources

(Ohio Revised Code 131.44, 5747.03)

The PLF receives 1.66 percent of all General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax revenue collections of the previous month.

Distributions

(R.C. 5747.47)

In July of each year, the Ohio Department of Taxation certifies an estimate of each county's total entitlement for the following calendar year. Estimates reflect the best projection of state tax revenues for the subsequent calendar year and incorporate updated county population estimates and an inflation factor. Each December, the department certifies (1) the amounts that each county was entitled to receive under the distribution formula during the current calendar year, (2) the amount each county received, and (3) the difference between the two. The amount of PLF to which a county is entitled is not known until the end of each year when the total amount of revenue into the PLF is known. During the first six months of the following year, each county's distribution is adjusted for any overpayment or underpayment received in the preceding year. Each June, the estimates for the current calendar year distributions are revised to account for recent actual state tax revenues and any revised projections of tax revenues.

In addition, recent budget bills have specified transfers from the PLF to Ohio Public Library Information Network

technology fund (OPLIN) and the Library for the Blind fund on a fiscal year basis. These transfers are made before calculations are made for PLF distributions to counties. House Bill 59 (130th General Assembly) provided for transfers of \$3,689,788 to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 to the Library for the Blind.

Distribution Procedure

(R.C. 5747.47)

Distributions from the state PLF to counties are made on or before the tenth day of each month.

Use of Funds

(R.C. 3375.05, 3375.121, 3375.40, 3375.403, 3375.82, 3375.85, 5705.32)

County budget commissions determine the amounts to be allocated to all libraries. The amount is given to each library based on its needs for building construction and improvement, operations, maintenance, and other expenses required by the library and its branches. By law, libraries collectively may never receive a smaller share of county PLF distributions than the average percentage of the county's intangible property taxes that were distributed to all libraries in 1982, 1983, and 1984.

After fixing the amount to be distributed to libraries within the county, the county budget commission fixes an amount to distribute to municipal corporations in the county. By law, each municipal corporation receives a percentage of the remainder equal to the percentage share of all classified, or intangible, property taxes originating from that municipality in 1984.

Generally speaking, the vast majority of revenue distributed from the PLF is provided to libraries, with the remainder provided to other local governments.

Recent Legislation

House Bill 59, 130th General Assembly (FY 2014-FY 2015 biennial budget bill; budget provisions effective July 1, 2013)

- Beginning with the July 2013 distribution, the percentage-of-revenue method is reinstated: the PLF receives 1.66 percent of state GRF tax revenues of the previous month.
- Specifies transfers from the PLF in each fiscal year of the biennium: \$3,689,788 to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 to the Library for the Blind.

- Moved the July 20th certification date of the upcoming calendar year estimates of the county auditors to July 25th.

House Bill 64, 131st General Assembly (FY 2016-FY 2017 biennial budget bill; budget provisions effective July 1, 2015)

- For FY 2016 and FY 2017, specifies that the PLF is to receive 1.70 percent of state GRF tax revenues of the previous month.
- Specifies transfers from the PLF in each fiscal year of the biennium: \$3,689,788 to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 to the Library for the Blind.

History of Major Changes

1933	Local situs intangible tax was levied on the intangible property of individuals, unincorporated businesses and single-county corporations. Revenues went to libraries and local governments.
1984	HB 291 eliminated the local situs intangible tax and established the Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF)
1986	Funding for LLGSF began consisting of 6.3 percent of the state income tax.

1991	HB 298 and HB 904 temporarily suspended the LLGSF funding percentage from January 1992 through July 1993, creating a “freeze” on distributions.
1993	“Freeze” lifted beginning in FY 1994, funding percentage reduced to 5.7 percent.
2001	HB 94 enacted a “freeze” in which each county undivided LLGSF received the same amount received in FY 2001. The 125th and 126th General Assemblies continued the freeze.
2007	HB 119 funded public libraries with 2.22 percent of the state’s total general revenue tax collections.
2008	SB 185 changed the name of the LLGSF to the Public Library Fund (PLF).
2009	HB 1 temporarily reduced the fixed percentage of GRF to the PLF to 1.97 percent from August 2009 through June 2011.
2011	HB 153 reduced the amount credited to the PLF to 95 percent of the monthly amount received during July 2010 through June 2011.
2012	Beginning with the August 2013 distribution, the PLF receives 1.66 percent of all GRF tax revenue collections of the prior month.
2015	Beginning with the August 2015 distribution, the PLF receives 1.70 percent of all GRF tax revenue collections of the prior month for fiscal years 2016-2017

Table 1		
Public Library Fund Total Amounts Distributed to Counties: Calendar Years 2010 - 2014		
Calendar Year Distribution	Total Distribution	Percentage Change in Total Distribution
2010	\$347,952,236	-6.1%
2011	364,671,108	4.8%
2012	344,026,827	-5.7%
2013	351,913,895	2.3%
2014	345,132,620	-1.9%

Source: Ohio Department of Taxation

Table 2			
Transfers from the Public Library Fund to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and Library for the Blind, FY 2010 - FY 2015			
Fiscal Year	OPLIN (Fund 4S40)	Library for the Blind (Fund 5GB0)	Total Transfers
2010	\$3,702,150	\$1,274,194	\$4,976,344
2011	\$3,702,150	\$1,274,194	\$4,976,344
2012	\$3,689,401	\$1,274,194	\$4,963,595
2013	\$3,689,788	\$1,274,194	\$4,963,982
2014	\$3,689,788	\$1,274,194	\$4,963,982
2015	\$3,689,788	\$1,274,194	\$4,963,982

Table 3					
Public Library Fund: Amounts Distributed to Individual Counties, Calendar Year 2014					
County	Amount	County	Amount	County	Amount
Adams	\$757,586.46	Hamilton	\$35,617,884.90	Noble	\$353,093.34
Allen	\$3,158,724.80	Hancock	\$2,249,357.29	Ottawa	\$1,181,952.87
Ashland	\$1,468,825.13	Hardin	\$879,210.24	Paulding	\$566,198.16
Ashtabula	\$2,856,409.44	Harrison	\$512,336.07	Perry	\$927,211.57
Athens	\$1,680,188.88	Henry	\$820,414.87	Pickaway	\$1,415,590.75
Auglaize	\$1,339,510.95	Highland	\$1,079,796.49	Pike	\$737,005.70
Belmont	\$2,033,693.86	Hocking	\$763,736.26	Portage	\$4,176,018.94
Brown	\$1,075,494.85	Holmes	\$997,426.75	Preble	\$1,158,507.90
Butler	\$8,888,047.59	Huron	\$1,667,551.56	Putnam	\$966,336.13
Carroll	\$785,784.66	Jackson	\$907,634.20	Richland	\$3,776,982.65
Champaign	\$1,033,464.23	Jefferson	\$2,209,646.86	Ross	\$2,036,246.61
Clark	\$4,142,285.05	Knox	\$1,456,070.05	Sandusky	\$1,769,238.82
Clermont	\$4,629,113.89	Lake	\$6,626,447.15	Scioto	\$2,258,822.87
Clinton	\$1,110,122.14	Lawrence	\$1,767,947.34	Seneca	\$1,733,208.13
Columbiana	\$3,113,048.49	Licking	\$3,861,727.06	Shelby	\$1,350,053.88
Coshocton	\$1,042,329.34	Logan	\$1,243,477.14	Stark	\$11,238,903.35
Crawford	\$1,369,137.83	Lorain	\$7,883,046.25	Summit	\$16,151,522.17
Cuyahoga	\$48,311,300.21	Lucas	\$14,020,602.28	Trumbull	\$6,506,330.91
Darke	\$1,528,442.84	Madison	\$1,104,893.97	Tuscarawas	\$2,473,675.59
Defiance	\$1,122,639.75	Mahoning	\$7,599,330.15	Union	\$1,054,339.89
Delaware	\$2,605,497.78	Marion	\$1,850,022.22	Van Wert	\$858,849.42
Erie	\$2,380,521.56	Medina	\$3,877,904.97	Vinton	\$332,401.60
Fairfield	\$3,314,044.47	Meigs	\$659,476.78	Warren	\$3,889,748.11
Fayette	\$793,894.52	Mercer	\$1,153,793.59	Washington	\$1,785,794.34
Franklin	\$31,456,158.73	Miami	\$2,836,065.16	Wayne	\$3,188,672.84
Fulton	\$1,169,909.22	Monroe	\$426,885.08	Williams	\$1,105,429.24
Gallia	\$894,283.53	Montgomery	\$17,863,565.59	Wood	\$3,732,025.55
Geauga	\$2,918,696.70	Morgan	\$400,630.43	Wyandot	\$644,153.38
Greene	\$4,105,427.13	Morrow	\$837,195.18		
Guernsey	\$1,123,962.35	Muskingum	\$2,381,682.61	Total	\$345,132,620

Source: Ohio Department of Taxation