

URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL

Transforming Lives and Strengthening Communities

URBAN
LIBRARIES
COUNCIL



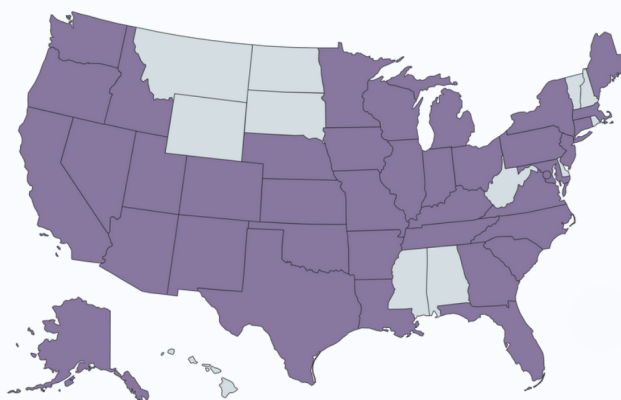
Who We Are | Urban Libraries Council

The Urban Libraries Council is dedicated to strengthening and advancing the essential role of public libraries as a dynamic place for innovation, equity and opportunity. We connect public libraries and drive transformative change to enrich the lives of individuals and urban communities across North America.

As an innovation and action tank, ULC drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships to elevate the power of public libraries. ULC identifies significant challenges facing today's changing urban communities and develops new tools and techniques to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, workforce and economic development, digital equity and race and social equity.

ULC represents 176 member libraries across the United States and Canada, including in 39 states. Member libraries in the United States serve more than 86 million residents.

176
MEMBER
LIBRARIES



39
U.S. STATES
ARE REPRESENTED
IN ULC MEMBERSHIP

U.S. SERVICE POPULATION
OF ULC MEMBER LIBRARIES: **86M** RESIDENTS

Core Activities | Urban Libraries Council

- Advocating for federal legislation and resources to empower public libraries to meet evolving community needs.
- Building community and human capacity through library initiatives related to education, workforce development, democracy, public health, digital inclusion and equity.
- Providing training and leadership development opportunities to support a new generation of library leaders.
- Conducting research, developing analytical insights and sharing best practices to strengthen public library services.

Why Libraries?

The nation's largest public libraries anchor communities and serve as hubs for economic and community advancement. They provide critical resources across employment, health, information access, civic engagement and social services for jobseekers, small businesses, immigrants, seniors, families with children, students and those bridging the digital divide.

What is Needed



Infrastructure

Libraries are essential public infrastructure that **need to be preserved for future generations**. Building tax credits, historic site preservation designations and new state block grants will help libraries continue to serve their cities.



Workforce Development, Digital Inclusion and Economic Mobility

From the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act reauthorization to funding for small businesses, entrepreneurship, skills development, workforce training and home broadband, supporting libraries in this work **uplifts the American workforce and the American economy**.



Public Health and Social Services

Urban libraries have essential mandates that are not fully recognized in federal funding opportunities, from providing access to health and mental health support to citizenship classes to supporting unhoused individuals. Support for health services, affordable housing and pathways to citizenship creates healthy communities.



Intellectual Freedom and Access to Information

These tenets are **fundamental values of democracy** and individual rights, and support for access and fair pricing for e-content and modernization of copyright law fosters an informed citizenry.



Education and Literacy

Support for after-school programs, early childhood and adult literacy, and on-ramps to community college help libraries **meet peoples' educational needs wherever they are in life**.