

## **Libraries an Economic Lifeline for Jobless Pennsylvanians**

Our **libraries are a lifeline** for Pennsylvanians struggling with the loss of a job, reduced hours, or the threat of a layoff. Public internet terminals in the library are a no-cost link to government services such as unemployment information and retraining programs, resume-writing programs, and other resources. What's more, a growing number of employers require applications to be submitted online.

As household incomes are reduced and family budgets squeezed to the breaking point, home internet services are canceled in order to pay for the basics of food and shelter. Other families may never have been able to afford home access. All of these families rely on the free internet access in the library along with trained and knowledgeable staff members there who stand ready to assist with guidance and support.

We urge you to help libraries help those most in need in this economy. **Level-fund libraries** so that we are not forced to close which will only mean adding reduced library services to the list of difficulties these families face already

**Please contact your State Senator, State Representative, and Governor Rendell and ask that library funds be level-funded in next year's budget** so people looking for work have greater opportunities to search, find, and apply via the Internet.

Please send copies of your personal notes, personal letters and emails to state legislators to:

Governor Ed Rendell  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[http://sites.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/Governor/govmail.html](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/govmail.html)

and

Clare Zales  
Commissioner of Libraries  
PA Department of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745  
[mzales@state.pa.us](mailto:mzales@state.pa.us)

Visit [www.palibraries.org](http://www.palibraries.org) for legislative updates, Talking Points, FAQ, Advocacy and Soundbites. Please complete and send in a Commitment Form to let us know about your advocacy.

Please let Glenn Miller know of any feedback you receive from your legislators. Send him an email at, [glenn@palibraries.org](mailto:glenn@palibraries.org) or fax to 717-766-5440.

Thanks for stepping up your efforts and recruiting more library advocates at this critical time.

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Margie Stern ([mstern@delco.lib.pa.us](mailto:mstern@delco.lib.pa.us))  
PaLA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs