



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 name of the state fund was changed from the Library and Local Government Support Fund to the Public Library Fund effective June 20, 2008 by Senate Bill 185.

Previous permanent law had called for PLF to receive a fixed 5.7 percent of income tax collections, distributed to counties according to a formula outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. But these provisions were set aside by the 124th, 125th and 126th general assemblies as part of a series of temporary local government fund “freezes.” Accordingly, from mid-2001 through mid-2007, the PLF revenue was distributed to counties based largely on the amount received during the previous year.

The PLF was reorganized as part of House Bill 119, enacted in June 2007 by the 127th General Assembly. Starting in January 2008, the PLF began receiving a fixed 2.22 percent of all General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax collections. Distributions from the PLF to counties returned to the old formula outlined in R.C. 5747.46.

In 2009, the 128th General Assembly enacted House Bill 1, temporarily reducing the fixed percentage of GRF tax collections that are to be deposited into the PLF. From Aug. 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, this percentage was 1.97 percent.

From August 2011 through June 2013, the 129th General Assembly enacted House Bill 153 reducing the amount credited to the PLF to 95% of the amount received during the respective months in July 2010 through June 2011.

Beginning in July 2013, the PLF began to receive 1.66 percent of all GRF tax revenue collections of the previous month.

During the 2013 calendar year, counties received approximately \$351.9 million from the PLF.

Revenue Sources

(Ohio Revised Code 131.44, 5747.03)

In January 2008, following a series of fund “freezes,” the PLF began receiving a fixed 2.22 percent of all General Revenue Fund tax collections each month. Half of this monthly amount is credited against the sales and use tax and half against the kilowatt-hour tax.

House Bill 1 of the 128th General Assembly temporarily reduced the fixed percentage of GRF tax collections that are to be deposited into the PLF. The formula for calculating the entitlements is dynamic, and the exact amount to which a county is entitled cannot be known for certain until the end of each distribution year, when the total amount of revenue into the PLF is known. Accordingly, each December, the department certifies the actual amount to which each county was entitled receive under the distribution formula during the current calendar year, the amount each county actually received, and the difference between the two. 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.

In 2012, House Bill 153 (the main operating budget bill for FY 2012 and 2013) funded the PLF based on 95 percent of the July 2010-June 2011 distributions. Items to note:

- Must account for \$3,689,401 transfer to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 transfer to the Library for the Blind in FY 2012, and \$3,689,788 transfer to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 transfer to the Library for the Blind in FY 2013.
- House Bill 153 also set the mechanism for funding going forward. Beginning with the July 2013 distribution, the fund is to receive 1.66 percent of all GRF tax revenue collections of the previous month. However, for the January 2012-June 2013 distribution months, each county is to receive in distribution the same percentage that it received during CY 2011 distributions.

House Bill 59 (the main operating budget for FY 2014-2015) provided for OPLIN and Library for the Blind transfers for the same amount during FY 2014-2015.

Use of Funds Distributed

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

County budget commissions (composed of a county commissioner, the county auditor, and the county treasurer) determine the amounts to be allocated to all librar-

ies. 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 provided to libraries, with the remainder provided to other local governments in a few counties.

Recent Legislation

House Bill 153, 129th General Assembly (FY 2012-2013 biennial budget bill; budget provisions effective July 1, 2011)

In 2011, H.B. 153 (the main operating budget bill for fiscal years 2012 and 2013) funded the PLF based on 95 percent of the July 2010-June 2011 distributions. Items to note:

- July 2011 was still based on permanent law, so the new funding calculation did not begin until August 2011.

- Must account for \$3,689,401 transfer to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 transfer to the Library for the Blind in FY 2012, and \$3,689,788 transfer to OPLIN and \$1,274,194 transfer to the Library for the Blind in FY 2013.
- For the July 2011-December 2011 distribution months, each county is to receive in distribution the same percentage that it received during CY 2010 distributions.
- For the January 2012-June 2013 distribution months, each county is to receive in distribution the same percentage that it received during CY 2011 distributions.
- Percentage of revenue method to return beginning in FY 2014. Calculated by taking the FY 2013 PLF distribution amounts and dividing by the FY 2013 total GRF tax revenue collections.

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

- Moved the July 20th certification date of the upcoming calendar estimates of the county auditors to July 25th to match the Local Government Fund certification date.
- Beginning with the July 2013 distribution, the percentage of revenue method returns for funding the PLF. The PLF receives 1.66 percent of state GRF tax revenues.

Table 1

Library & Local Government Support Fund/Public Library Fund Total Amounts Distributed to Counties: Calendar Years 2009 - 2013				
Calendar Year	Guaranteed Share	Equalization Share	Total Distribution	Percent Change in Total Distribution
2009 ¹	\$370,367,615	–	\$370,367,615	–
2010 ¹	347,952,236	–	347,952,236	-6.1%
2011 ²	349,963,756	\$14,707,352	364,671,108	4.8%
2012 ³	344,026,827	–	344,026,827	-5.7%
2013 ⁴	351,913,895	–	351,913,895	2.3%

¹ Amount of GRF tax revenue deposited into fund is reduced from 2.22 percent to 1.97 percent from Aug. 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011.

² The 2011 share of excess was applicable for January - June 2011 period only due to H.B. 153.

³ Reflects the effects of H.B. 153. Figure shown is after transfers to OPLIN and Library for the Blind.

⁴ Reflects the effects of H.B. 59. Figure shown is after the transfers to OPLIN and Library for the Blind.

Source: Ohio Department of Taxation

Table 2

Public Library Fund
Amounts Distributed to Counties, Calendar Year 2013

County	Amount	County	Amount	County	Amount
ADAMS	\$772,421.66	HAMILTON	\$36,324,163.16	NOBLE	\$359,976.36
ALLEN	\$3,220,822.51	HANCOCK	\$2,293,586.68	OTTAWA	\$1,205,156.93
ASHLAND	\$1,497,627.92	HARDIN	\$896,447.25	PAULDING	\$577,321.85
ASHTABULA	\$2,912,461.72	HARRISON	\$522,432.02	PERRY	\$945,336.91
ATHENS	\$1,713,055.36	HENRY	\$836,534.00	PICKAWAY	\$1,443,250.97
AUGLAIZE	\$1,365,828.59	HIGHLAND	\$1,100,879.68	PIKE	\$751,417.75
BELMONT	\$2,073,640.17	HOCKING	\$778,676.95	PORTAGE	\$4,257,693.37
BROWN	\$1,096,462.25	HOLMES	\$1,016,842.23	PREBLE	\$1,181,222.58
BUTLER	\$9,061,308.89	HURON	\$1,700,267.99	PUTNAM	\$985,298.95
CARROLL	\$801,186.79	JACKSON	\$925,425.82	RICHLAND	\$3,851,295.15
CHAMPAIGN	\$1,053,681.05	JEFFERSON	\$2,253,182.02	ROSS	\$2,076,083.41
CLARK	\$4,223,744.85	KNOX	\$1,484,439.18	SANDUSKY	\$1,803,996.15
CLERMONT	\$4,719,203.97	LAKE	\$6,756,580.50	SCIOTO	\$2,303,165.39
CLINTON	\$1,131,855.41	LAWRENCE	\$1,802,644.92	SENECA	\$1,767,313.08
COLUMBIANA	\$3,174,192.24	LICKING	\$3,936,855.68	SHELBY	\$1,376,518.66
COSHOCTON	\$1,062,784.08	LOGAN	\$1,267,847.36	STARK	\$11,459,893.64
CRAWFORD	\$1,396,100.00	LORAIN	\$8,037,296.34	SUMMIT	\$16,469,095.02
CUYAHOGA	\$49,266,820.25	LUCAS	\$14,296,783.30	TRUMBULL	\$6,634,406.05
DARKE	\$1,558,462.97	MADISON	\$1,126,489.88	TUSCARAWAS	\$2,522,122.83
DEFIANCE	\$1,144,687.62	MAHONING	\$7,749,044.49	UNION	\$1,074,670.32
DELAWARE	\$2,654,182.21	MARION	\$1,886,314.61	VAN WERT	\$875,737.93
ERIE	\$2,427,377.95	MEDINA	\$3,953,220.63	VINTON	\$338,892.12
FAIRFIELD	\$3,378,433.49	MEIGS	\$672,412.22	WARREN	\$3,964,169.40
FAYETTE	\$809,457.43	MERCER	\$1,176,436.72	WASHINGTON	\$1,820,868.10
FRANKLIN	\$32,072,183.45	MIAMI	\$2,891,674.59	WAYNE	\$3,251,216.42
FULTON	\$1,192,846.99	MONROE	\$435,272.70	WILLIAMS	\$1,127,152.30
GALLIA	\$911,846.86	MONTGOMERY	\$18,215,832.58	WOOD	\$3,805,375.06
GEAUGA	\$2,976,161.49	MORGAN	\$408,475.58	WYANDOT	\$656,796.72
GREENE	\$4,185,636.25	MORROW	\$853,515.31		
GUERNSEY	\$1,146,017.55	MUSKINGUM	\$2,428,385.11	TOTAL	\$351,913,895

Source: Ohio Department of Taxation