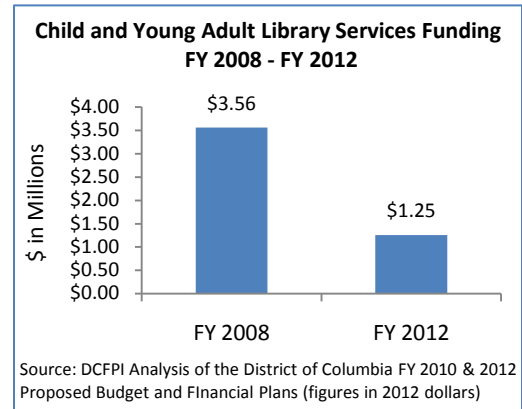


# The Cost of Cuts to the DC Public Library

Over the past three years, budget shortfalls for DC's public libraries have resulted in reduced services, reduced hours and staff layoffs. Cuts to DCPL began in the summer of 2008 when the Library lost \$2 million dollars through cuts to personnel. As of FY 2011, the DC Public Library had another \$4 million budget reduction, and the FY 2012 budget proposes an additional \$2.7 million cut. Yet, with many new and renovated District libraries destined to open by the end of fiscal year 2011, more staff and more funding for library resources will be necessary. Having made vast capital investments in the new and renovated buildings and already cut \$6 million from the Library's budget as of FY 2011, a lack of funding for FY 2012 will only undermine the city's investments in public libraries and reduce services further.

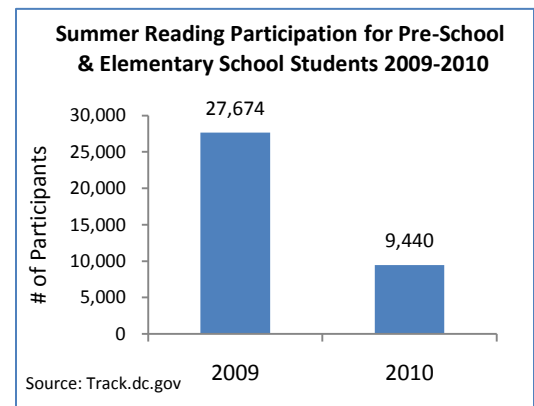
## REDUCED FUNDING FOR VALUED LIBRARY SERVICES

- ❖ Despite a 50 percent reduction in funding for child and young adult services between FY 2008 and FY 2011, the proposed budget for 2012 cuts funding even further. Proposed FY 2012 funding levels for child and young adult services are 65 percent lower than in 2008.
- ❖ The FY 2012 budget would reduce resources for library collections by over \$1.5 million, a 35 percent cut from 2011. These funds support acquisition of books, magazines, media, and movies.



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS HAVE SUFFERED

- ❖ Between 2009 and 2010, the Public libraries saw 65 percent fewer pre-school and elementary school children participate in summer reading programs. Similarly, participation rates for teens fell by about one half.
- ❖ Budget cuts as of FY 2011 led to the halt of the Teens of Distinction Program, which provides teens the opportunity to work in the library, cultivate customer service skills, and receive training in college prep, money management, and resume writing. The proposed FY 2012 budget contains further cuts to this program.



## LIBRARIES HAVE CUT HOURS AND LAID OFF STAFF

- ❖ Library hours have been reduced twice in the last three years, according to a 2010 DCPL press release.
- ❖ This past summer, FY 2011 Budget shortfalls led to 40 layoffs (23.5 Full Time Equivalent positions) including part-time librarians, education technicians, library aides, security officers, and trainers.
- ❖ FY 2012 cuts to library services will cause Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, the District's Central Library and the only District library currently open on Sundays, to close on Sundays.