

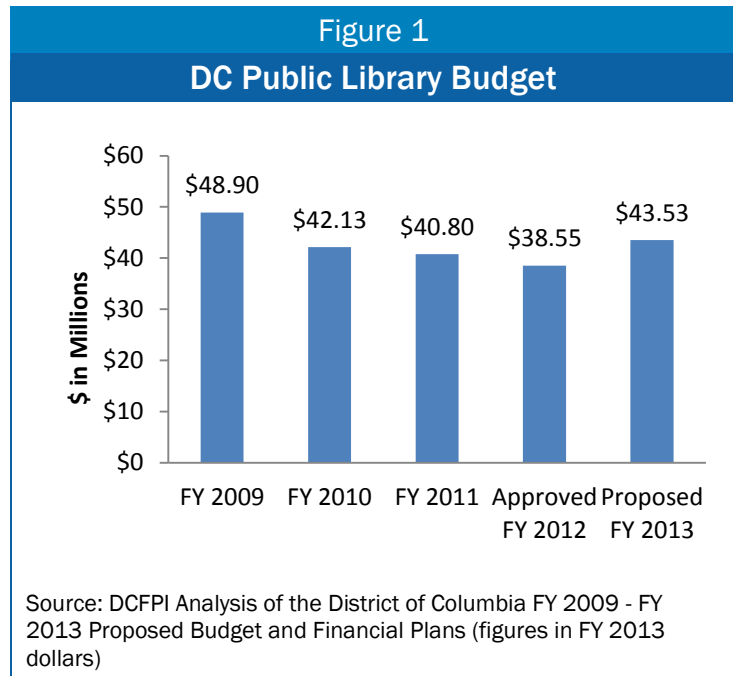
July 12, 2012

FUNDING DC'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

After several years of cuts, DC's public libraries are finally seeing increased funding. Although circulation and computer use have risen dramatically over the last few years, the system has also experienced \$10 million in cuts in recent years, from \$48.9 in FY 2009 to \$38.6 in FY 2012. The fiscal year 2013 budget, as well as the recommendations of the Council's Committee on Libraries, restore \$7 million to the system's budget. The biggest portion comes from a \$2.2 million increase in the budget for book acquisitions, which was proposed by the Council committee.

Funding for Valued Library Services

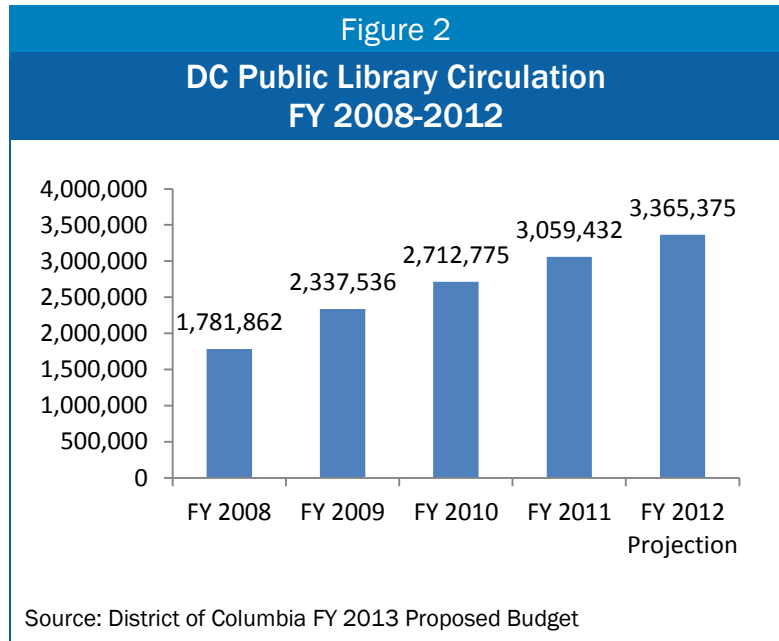
- Funding for child and young adult services¹ has decreased dramatically in the past few years, but the FY 2013 budget restores some of the funding cuts, increasing the budget from \$1.27 million in FY 2012 (inflation adjusted) to \$1.38 million in FY 2013. FY 2013 funding level is still less than a third of FY 2008 levels.
- The Council's Committee on Libraries recommendation for FY 2013 budget increases funding for library collections, bringing funding from a 40 percent cut in FY 2012, back up to the FY 2011 level of \$5 million.
- During the same period that funding has decreased, circulation has almost doubled, from 1.8 million items in FY 2008 to 3.1 million in FY 2011. (These are the most recent data available.)



¹ As defined in the FY 2013 Proposed Budget, "Child and Young Adult Services promotes reading to children from birth to age 19 to build a foundation of reading, a love of the library, and, most importantly, a love of reading; and encourages school retention and graduation through homework help and other educational supports and instills in youth a lifelong love of learning"

Youth Programs are Seeing Mixed Patterns

- Recently, DC public libraries have seen large reductions in the number of pre-school and elementary school children participating in summer reading programs. This past fiscal year though, participation has increased from 9,440 to almost 15,000. This is still lower than participation in 2009, which was over 28,000.
- Participation in summer programs by teens continues to decline. In 2009 and 2010, participation fell by one half, from 4,126 to 2,057. In 2011, the number of teens served in the summer plummeted to only 707.



Recovering from Recent Staff Cuts

- In the past few years, cuts to the library budget resulted in both reduced hours and caused layoffs, including 23.5 full-time equivalent positions in FY 2011.
- Funding increases in the FY 2013 budget will restore the recent staff cuts, including adding 32.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions this year, bringing the total number of FTEs to 461.6, and back to the FY 2010 level of 458.6.

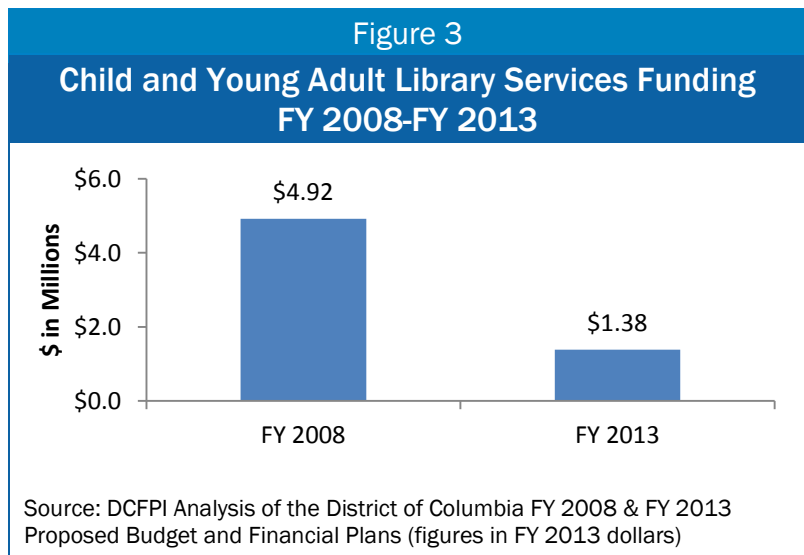
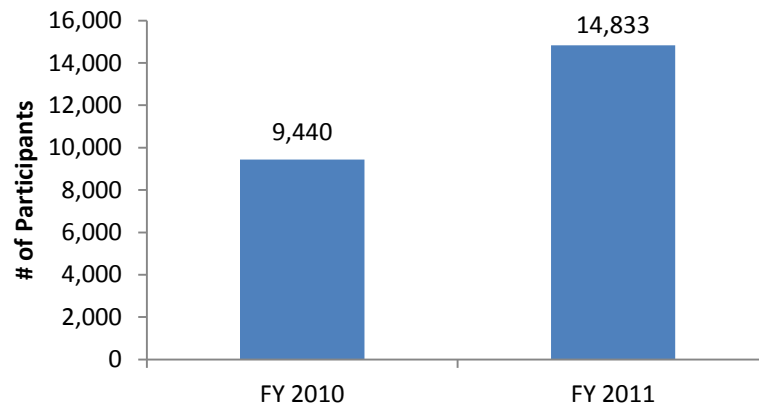


Figure 4

**Summer Reading Participation for Pre-School
& Elementary School Students
FY 2010 and FY 2011**



Source: Track.dc.gov