

**ALA Executive Board  
2017 Fall Meeting**

**TOPIC:** ALA Programmatic Priorities – FY2019

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval and recommendation to ALA Council

**DRAFT MOTION:** *The ALA Executive Board recommends to the ALA Council the following programmatic priorities, as a basis for the FY19 budget and as a key framework for strategic planning:*

- *Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession*
- *Diversity*
- *Education and Lifelong Learning*
- *Equitable Access to Information and Library Services*
- *Intellectual Freedom*
- *Literacy*
- *Organizational Excellence*
- *Transforming Libraries*

**REQUESTED BY:** Mary W. Ghikas, ALA Interim Executive Director

**DATE:** 17 October 2017

**BACKGROUND:**

In accordance with ALA Bylaws (Article IX, Sec. 1), the ALA Executive Board presents to the ALA Council for approval both the annual estimates of income and the budget objectives (programmatic priorities) for approval. By practice, the programmatic priorities or budget objectives are presented early in the budget preparation cycle (at the Midwinter Meeting) in order to provide guidance in its development. The annual estimates of income derive from the work of budget development and are presented to Council for approval at the ALA Annual Conference, prior to the final approval of the budget by the ALA Executive Board.

*ALA Strategic Directions* –including Advocacy, Information Policy, and Professional and Leadership Development -- were approved by the ALA Council at the 2015 Annual Conference. At the 2017 Midwinter Meeting, ALA Council approved a fourth strategic direction: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Collectively, they direct Association activity – such as advocacy or research – toward accomplishment of specific ends within the mission of the Association and the broad arenas of the programmatic priorities. Within the framework of approved mission,

programmatic priorities, goals and objectives, specific implementation strategies are developed and implemented through the annual budget. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/>

The following list of programmatic priorities was approved annually by the ALA Council, on recommendation of the ALA Executive Board, from 1997-2005.

- Diversity
- Education and Continuous Learning
- Equity of Access
- Intellectual Freedom
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy

At the October 29, 2005, ALA Executive Board meeting, following adoption of ALA's 2010 strategic plan, the Board recommended additions to these priorities to better align the programmatic priorities with ALA's strategic plan – ALA Ahead to 2010.

In January 2006, the ALA Council first approved the revised list of key action areas as the FY2007 programmatic priorities, developed in accordance with ALA Ahead to 2010:

- Diversity
- Equitable Access to Information & Library Services
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession
- Literacy
- Organizational Excellence

These priorities were approved annually, on recommendation of the ALA Executive Board, from January 2006 through January 2010 (FY11).

In Fall 2010, in accordance with the ALA 2015 Strategic Plan, approved by the ALA Council in June 2010, the ALA Executive Board added Transforming Libraries to the list of programmatic priorities recommended to the ALA Council. The programmatic priorities, as proposed, were first approved by the ALA Council at the 2011 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego.

Beginning in FY14 and continuing in FY15, the ALA Executive Board, in concert with ALA leaders, members and staff, undertook significant planning activity in developing the Association's new strategic plan. That planning activity took place in an environment of significant change, both for the Association and for the library community. In June 2015, the ALA Council considered and ultimately approved a new strategic plan for the Association, which moves forward these programmatic priorities – and may also ultimately continue to develop them.