



WRL Williamsburg
Regional Library

WRL AT A GLANCE

FY 2025

FY25 Statistics

BUDGET EXPENDITURES

\$8,834,532 FY25 Budget

\$660,000 Collection Materials

\$1,262,834 Operations

\$6,911,698 Compensation

BUDGET REVENUES

\$8,135,372 Local Government Funding

\$510,015 State Aid

\$189,145 Generated Revenue

95,503 Population Served

52,018 Registered Borrowers

1,211,225 Total Circulation

262,831 Total Collection

115,049 Reference Transactions

496,163 Library Visits

138,468 Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio Visits

103,079 Library-Sponsored Program Attendance

4,210 Library Programs

FY 2025

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Randy Casey-Rutland, President of Friends of WRL Foundation
(ex officio)

Sandy Towers, Library Director (ex officio)

*JCC = James City County
City = City of Williamsburg
York = York County*



Friends of WRL Grants

The Friends of WRL Foundation supported the library's collections, programs and services in the amount of \$200,000 through their Margin of Excellence support. The following grants were made in FY 2025:

- Explore Virginia Collection
- WRL e-reader Collection
- Video Game Collection
- Multiple Copy for Digital Collection
- Wi-Fi Hotspots for Lending Program
- Library Speakers Consortium
- Adult & Teen Summer Reading Program
- Book Page Subscription
- ComiCon
- Dewey Decibel Concert Series
- Adult Winter Reading Programs
- One Book One Community
- Art Show & Poetry Writing Contests
- Saturday's @ Frink
- Spring Festival
- Summer Reading Kickoff
- Summer Reading Program
- Crafts Programs & Art Cart Supplies
- Story Trail Permanent Signage
- Idea Studio Table Top Game
- Cen con Cuentos - Dinner & a Story
- School Author Visit - 2026
- Playground Elements & Grand Opening

OVERVIEW

During FY25, Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) demonstrated strong stewardship of public resources while delivering high-impact services across Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. Building on prior statewide recognition and community trust, WRL focused on executing major initiatives aligned with its strategic priorities: reinventing library services, communicating and raising awareness, planning for new and renovated library facilities, and strengthening outreach services and partnerships.

These efforts ensured the library system remained responsive, efficient, and positioned for long-term sustainability. FY25 accomplishments reflect WRL's ability to translate planning into action, manage complex projects responsibly, and leverage partnerships to maximize the impact of public investment.



Strategic Priority 1:

REINVENTING LIBRARY SERVICES

WRL continued to reinvent library services during FY25 by modernizing technology infrastructure, expanding access to digital tools, and enhancing opportunities for lifelong learning.

A major focus was technology modernization and operational efficiency. WRL implemented LibCal as a centralized platform for meeting room reservations, event registration, and Explore Virginia Museum Passes, simplifying access for users and streamlining internal workflows. Preparation continued for migration to a new Integrated Library System (ILS), including data cleanup, staff training, and public communication planning to ensure a smooth transition.

WRL also made progress on network and data center upgrades, strengthening system reliability, cybersecurity, and capacity for future growth. In addition, development and content migration advanced for a redesigned WRL website, improving accessibility, navigation, and communication with the public.

Reinventing services also included expanding creative and educational offerings. Increased use of the recording studio and Digital Memory Lab supported creative expression, preservation of local history, and intergenerational learning. WRL continued to deliver high-quality cultural and educational programming, including music, lecture, and author series such as the Dewey Decibel Concerts and Library Speakers Consortium programs.

Together, these efforts demonstrate WRL's ability to modernize services responsibly while maintaining continuity of daily operations.

Strategic Priority 2: COMMUNICATING AND RAISING AWARENESS

Clear communication and community engagement were essential components of WRL's work in FY25. The library emphasized transparency, accessibility, and proactive outreach to ensure residents understood available services and opportunities for participation.

WRL strengthened its public presence through enhanced digital communication tools, including improvements to the website and online calendars, making it easier for users to discover programs, reserve spaces, and access resources. Library staff participated in school events, community festivals, senior programs, and public service fairs, increasing awareness of library services across jurisdictions.

Large-scale events such as the KidLit Festival, which attracted nearly 1,000 attendees, served as highly visible opportunities to showcase WRL's role in youth literacy, family engagement, and community building. One Book One Community programming further amplified WRL's impact through shared reading experiences, author events, and partnerships with the College of William & Mary.

These communication efforts reinforced WRL's value as a trusted public institution and ensured that investments in library services reached a broad and diverse audience.

Strategic Priority 3: PLANNING FOR NEW AND RENOVATED LIBRARY FACILITIES

FY25 marked a critical phase in WRL's long-term facilities strategy, with significant progress made in planning for new and renovated library spaces.

WRL worked collaboratively with local governments and design partners to advance the planning and early design process for a new Williamsburg Library and a proposed James City County Government Center Library. Multiple public input sessions and community surveys engaged hundreds of residents, ensuring that future facilities reflect community priorities, operational efficiency, and evolving service needs. Public feedback is actively informing decisions related to programming spaces, accessibility, parking, and building placement.

At the James City County Library, planning and preparation advanced for several capital improvements, including the Natural Playground and future public and staff area renovations.

These efforts demonstrate WRL's commitment to thoughtful and fiscally responsible facilities planning that supports long-term community benefit.

Strategic Priority 4: STRENGTHENING OUTREACH SERVICES, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

WRL expanded outreach services during FY25 to improve equitable access and strengthen community connections across the region.

One of the most rewarded strategic partnerships of the year was an expanded collaboration with James City County Parks & Recreation to deliver family literacy programs and senior services at the Abram Frink Jr. Community Center and continued innovative outreach at the Williamsburg–Jamestown Airport. WRL also strengthened educational partnerships with Williamsburg–James City County Public Schools, Head Start, Bright Beginnings, and the College of William & Mary to support literacy, digital skills, and shared community learning experiences. Partnerships with arts and cultural organizations, including the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center and regional artist groups, enriched gallery exhibitions and public programming, while collaboration with AARP and other nonprofits expanded access to essential services. Support from the Friends of WRL Foundation remained critical in extending the reach and impact of outreach, programming, and technology initiatives across the region.

Through these collaborations, WRL reinforced its role as a regional service provider committed to equitable access and community well-being.

GOVERNANCE, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND FUTURE READINESS

Across all strategic priorities, WRL maintained a strong focus on governance, transparency, and fiscal responsibility during FY25. Key actions included implementation of compensation and classification adjustments to support recruitment and retention; adoption of updated and new policies reflecting best practices in public participation, photography and filming, and board governance; and approval of participation in the Retirement Health Reimbursement Account (RHRA) benefit, aligning WRL with county personnel policies and supporting long-term staff retention.

WRL continued conservative budgeting practices, including vacancy savings, careful use of fund balance, and restraint in requesting new positions. These actions reflect WRL's commitment to fiscal discipline while recognizing that staff stability and infrastructure investment are essential to consistent, high-quality service delivery.