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Testimony for the Working Group on the Status of Libraries:

Focus on Staffing, July, 22, 2022

Hello!

I am writing in response to the request sent out for experiences with staffing in libraries.

I am the children's program coordinator at Rochester Public Library, since April 2021. I have a lot of enthusiasm for this job (I LOVE IT) and so many ideas! However, it has been a real struggle to balance that with what the library budget has allotted for my compensation. There's been a learning curve, for sure, but there definitely is not enough money to develop a consistently present, energetic children's program.

My solution, for now, thanks to the guidance of Jeannette Bair, Library Director, is to look at the total number of hours I'm granted for the year, and shift those hours around, on a monthly basis, according to the needs of the programs. So in summer, when I've been doing many activities, I've planned for more hours each month than I have in the winter.

But, oh, to be paid a more liveable wage and have the budget to work more--that would really be my dream job!

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