



Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries



ENRICH IOWA: FUND LIBRARIES

Vision for Library Service in Iowa: "Each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas in order to lead an enriched life through lifelong learning and to participate knowledgeably and productively in a democratic society."

(Unified Plan for Library Service in Iowa, 1994)

September 1996

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries

Executive Summary

Iowa has a rich heritage of quality education, and Iowa's public libraries are part of that heritage. The library is the heart of a community, where the scholar or the common person, the school child or the lifelong learner, comes to secure wisdom and knowledge, to read and reflect.

And Iowans use their public libraries: Iowa ranks 8th in the nation in the number of library materials checked out, 13th in number of library visits. A citizen wants information about starting a business in Iowa; a farmer requests detailed information about alternative crops; a county nurse pursuing a graduate degree leading to a better paying job needs material for a research paper; a grandmother needs medical information about her grandchild's foot deformity; a grade school student needs an article on "jungle music." These five real-life Iowans successfully obtained the information they needed through technology available at their public library.

Unfortunately, not all public libraries in Iowa have this technology. Some libraries can afford electronic access to information; others cannot. When Iowans cannot receive information they need because their library does not have electronic access, it results in a large population of information "have-nots." In a November 13, 1995 interview with Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft Corporation, NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw noted that "the technology is already outrunning the ability of the wider part of society to come to grips with how it wants to use it." Gates replied, "I think the big dialogue will be about how to get it into schools, how to get it into libraries, to make sure it's a resource available to everyone."

Public libraries in Iowa receive the majority of their revenue from city and county appropriations. Out of 50 states, 42 have an annual, direct state aid program for public libraries; Iowa does not. Nationally, public libraries receive 12% of their income from state funds; in Iowa, it is only 2%, and that is not direct state aid, but reimbursement for services through the Open Access and Access Plus programs.

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries is a proposal for direct state aid to public libraries which reduces the current inequities in library services. Most important, it gives all Iowans the opportunity to have electronic access to information at their local public library.

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries was designed to:

- improve library service and reduce inequities among communities.
- enhance, not replace local funding.
- include recognized and adopted library standards with graduated payment levels.

The elements of this \$3 million proposal are:

A. Direct Aid to Public Libraries

- Base amount (\$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000) dependent on compliance with three tiers of standards.
- Per capita amount (\$0.20, \$0.40 or \$0.60) dependent on compliance with three tiers of standards.
- Three percent (3%) of the amount of funding received by the library in the previous fiscal year for service to rural residents and to contracting communities. The percentage is the same for all tiers.

B. Information Access

- Technology and information resources development and coordination.

C. Cooperative, Demonstration and Special Project Grants

- An annual competitive grant program for improving service to customers through new and innovative technologies and services, cooperative alliances and enhancement of physical facilities.

D. Implementation

- Oversight, assistance to libraries and use of an advisory committee to set direction of the program.

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries will move library service in Iowa closer to the ideal envisioned by library customers, librarians and governmental officials:

*"Each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas
in order to lead an enriched life through lifelong learning
and to participate knowledgeably and productively in a democratic society."
(Unified Plan for Library Service in Iowa, 1994)*

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries

Introduction and History

Like other educational institutions, public libraries are facing a unique challenge: their customers expect excellence in traditional services along with innovation and the latest in new technologies. In 1993, the State Library convened the Unified Planning Team to formulate a plan for library service in Iowa. One result was a vision for library service: "Each Iowan will have equal access to information and ideas in order to lead an enriched life through lifelong learning and to participate knowledgeably and productively in a democratic society." The team identified five goals to achieve the vision for Iowa citizens: access to information regardless of geographic location or economic status; opportunities for lifelong learning; customer knowledge of library resources; improved availability of resources through library cooperation; and improved service through adequate staffing.

While these goals were identified, the financial barriers faced by many public libraries in Iowa make them beyond reach. In fact, funding issues were considered the largest obstacle to achievement of the vision by the Unified Planning Team. The Iowa library community endorsed the vision but added their concerns that increased funding was essential to improve library service for all Iowans, not only for those living in more affluent communities.

As a result, in 1995, the ***Iowans Can't Wait: Better Funding for Libraries Task Force*** was convened by the State Library of Iowa to address the need for increased funding for libraries and to formulate a plan for state aid. The task force identified the needs of libraries and criteria for a state aid program:

Needs of libraries to serve their customers:

- Technology infrastructure (i.e., hardware, automated information retrieval systems, resource sharing, electronic access to information, Internet)
- Support services to libraries (i.e., advice and information on best practice, networking, resource sharing)
- Library materials (i.e., books, videos, magazines, compact disks, microfilm, databases, etc.)
- Staff development and training (i.e., adequate pay, training, more staff)
- Physical facilities (i.e., building projects, handicapped accessibility)

Criteria for a state aid program:

- Improve library service
- Be inclusive, flexible, marketable
- Have significant funding
- Be simple, equitable, accountable
- Enhance, not replace current funding
- Include minimum standards with graduated payment levels
- Include a per capita component and acknowledge service to rural residents
- Give libraries encouragement to participate

The task force, with input from the library community, has incorporated these components into the proposal ***Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries***. The proposal was carefully designed to:

- Raise the level of public library service in Iowa by providing incentives for improvement;
- Reduce inequities to access to information for Iowa citizens;
- Ensure local discretion in the use of resources;
- Enhance, not replace local funding;
- Include recognized and adopted library standards with graduated payment levels;
- Extend the availability of statewide on-line databases using the Internet;
- Provide statewide technology development and coordination for libraries.

As the State Library releases this final report to the library community, the contributions of the following members of the task force are gratefully acknowledged:

Iowans Can't Wait: Better Funding for Libraries Task Force

Ruth Ahlrichs, Pocahontas Public Library
Bob Berning, Carlisle Public Library
Susan Craig, Iowa City Public Library
Bryan Davis, Cedar Rapids Public Library
Charlotte Davis, Southwest Iowa Regional Library
Vera Dordick, Board of Trustees, East Central Regional Library
Lolly Eggers, Library Customer, Iowa City
Donna Emmert, Perry Public Library
Becky Heil, Dubuque County Library
Carol French Johnson, Cedar Falls and Waterloo Public Libraries
Karen Keninger, Iowa Department for the Blind
Joan Lubben, Board of Trustees, Orange City Public Library
Vicki Myron, Spencer Public Library
Emily Navarre, Southeastern Library Services
Anne Nygaard, Wesley Public Library
Bridget Quinn-Carey, Washington Public Library
Dale Ross, Board of Trustees, Iowa Commission of Libraries and
Central Iowa Regional Library
Richard Schneider, Iowa Library Friends
Gretchen Sump, Clarinda Public Library
Ann Swanson, North Central Regional Library
Cynthia Watson, Iowa Library Association
Dawn Work, Iowa Library Association

The State Library also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of hundreds of librarians and trustees who provided input through correspondence and participation in ICN information sessions.

State Library Staff:
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Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries

Program Description

A. Direct Aid to Public Libraries (\$1,800,000)

Summary

Section A improves services to Iowa library customers by strengthening local public libraries. This part of the program provides annual, direct aid to public libraries to help meet identified needs. The funding formula is composed of three tiers which include selected public library standards. Since the funding level increases with greater compliance with standards, the tiers provide incentives for improvements in library services. A library is eligible for only one tier. Public libraries not meeting the requirements of any tier are included as a Tier 1 participant for the first two years of the program.

Funding received through this program will supplement, not replace local funding support. Local funding is funding provided to a public library by a city or county, excluding amounts budgeted for capital improvements. In the event of local budget reductions, the library's percentage of reduction could be no more than the average percentage of reduction taken by other departments.

Public libraries will request the funding and report on its use annually according to guidelines developed by the State Library with an advisory committee. The annual report will include the amount of direct aid received, how the funds were used, and verification that the funding was used to supplement and not replace local funding support.

Methodology

Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries is tied to the achievement of certain public library standards in *In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measure of Quality*, second edition. The three-part funding formula includes:

- A base amount for each participating library. This amount increases with each tier of compliance to *In Service to Iowa*.
- A per capita amount based on the number of people residing within the geographical area for which the library was established. Certified population figures from the Iowa Secretary of State's office will be used. This amount increases with each tier of compliance to *In Service to Iowa*.
- Three percent (3%) of the amount of funding received by the library in the previous fiscal year for service to rural residents and to contracting communities. The percentage is the same for all tiers.

A. Direct Aid to Public Libraries (Continued)

Tier I Requirements

To be eligible for Tier I funding, a public library must:

- Participate in the Open Access Program;
- Participate in the Access Plus Program;
- Meet the following standards as detailed in *In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measures of Quality*, second edition.

(The number of the particular standard follows each phrase.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - Local ordinance (S. 2) | - Certified library director (S. 28) |
| - Budget authority (S. 4) | - Library hours (S. 72) |
| - Audits, budgeting, reporting (S. 7) | - Telephone (S. 76) |
| - Written bylaws (S. 8) | - Library catalog (S. 79) |
| - Library board meetings (S. 10) | - Book return (S. 90) |

Tier I Funding

Each year, each eligible public library will receive:

- **Base amount of \$1000 and**
- **\$0.20 per capita and**
- **.03 X the amount of funding received by the library in the previous fiscal year for service to rural residents and to contracting communities.**

Example: Any Town Public Library has a population of 500 and received \$6000 of county funding last fiscal year. The library complies with Tier I standards. The formula for direct aid for Any Town Public Library includes:

\$1000 - base amount;
100 - \$.20 X 500 population;
180 - .03 X \$6000 county funding
<hr/>
\$1280 - Direct Aid

A. Direct Aid to Public Libraries (Continued)

Tier II Requirements

To be eligible for Tier II funding, a public library must:

- Meet all Tier I requirements;
- Meet the following standards as detailed in *In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measures of Quality*, second edition:

(The number of the particular standard follows each phrase.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Written policies (S. 9) | - Reference sources (S. 41) |
| - Library visits per capita (S. 17) | - Collection evaluation, weeding (S. 43) |
| - Library registration (S. 18) | - Up-to-date collection (S. 44) |
| - Personnel policies (S. 29) | - Annual turnover rate (S. 45) |
| - Collection development policy (S.35) | - Circulation per capita (S. 46) |
| - Book collection (S. 38) | - Publicity (S. 65) |
| - Periodicals collection (S. 39) | - Intellectual freedom (S. 68) |
| - Audio, other non-print collection (S. 40) | - Minimum open days and hours (S. 73) |

Tier II Funding

Each year each eligible public library will receive:

- **Base amount of \$2000 and**
- **\$0.40 per capita and**
- **.03 X the amount of funding the library received in the previous fiscal year for service to rural residents and to contracting communities.**

A. Direct Aid to Public Libraries (Continued)

Tier III Requirements

To be eligible for Tier III funding, a public library must:

- Meet all Tier I and Tier II requirements;
- Be accredited by the State Library in accordance with the standards set forth in *In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measures of Quality*, second edition.

Tier III Funding

Each year each eligible public library will receive:

- **Base amount of \$3000 and**
- **\$0.60 per capita and**
- **.03 X the amount of funding the library received in the previous fiscal year for service to rural residents and to contracting communities.**

B. Information Access (\$650,000)

Summary

Section B provides citizens with equal access to library resources through statewide development and coordination of technology and information resources. This part of the program provides for activities and services beyond the local library with the emphasis on technology, cooperation and shared resources.

Methodology

- Funding for Part B of the program will be used to extend the availability of statewide on-line databases using the Internet, and for technology development and coordination.
- An annual report will be prepared for the Legislature and the Governor detailing the use and impact of the funds.

C. Cooperative, Demonstration and Special Project Grants (\$450,000)

Summary

Section C enables Iowa public libraries to provide improved service to customers through new and innovative technologies and services, cooperative alliances, and enhancement of physical facilities.

Methodology

This will be an annual competitive grant program for libraries. Priorities and criteria for receipt of a grant will be developed by the State Library with an advisory committee. Grant applications will be reviewed by the advisory committee with the final selection of funded projects made by the State Librarian and the Iowa Commission of Libraries.

Requirements

All grants will require a contribution on the part of the applicant. The advisory committee will assist in the development of other program requirements.

D. Implementation (\$100,000)

Summary

Section D provides oversight of activities and expenditures associated with *Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries*, assistance to libraries in obtaining program funding and use of an advisory committee to set direction of the program.

Methodology

- Appoint an advisory committee.
- Inform Iowa libraries about *Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries* and consult with libraries on features of the program.
- Review and process applications; monitor *Enrich Iowa: Fund Libraries* related activities and expenditures; obtain input from the advisory committee.
- Funds used for administration will be kept to the minimum necessary to assure accountability and the quality functioning of the program.
- Program funds not allocated at the end of the fiscal year will be reallocated by the State Library.



