

RPLAC Focus Groups on Services Librarians Want/Need from GPLS

Group 1.

1. Develop funding equity and a formula for growth [requires a formula and funds]
2. Technology is a major issue and should include cooperative training, standards, a replacement schedule, and staff assistance. [requires funding, GPLS staff help, training]
3. GPLS should focus on consulting, training and mentoring [GPLS staff]
4. GPLS staff should provide a process for construction/renovation/green building [funding, staff assistance, training program]

Group 2.

1. Recognition that GPLS serves the libraries in the field and provides advocacy for all libraries.
2. Regional incentives under the existing funding programs need to be revised to encourage economy of scale.
3. Statewide millage rate should be implemented
4. Dedication to fast response and ability to contact GPLS staff with more information provided and discussion of issues
5. Specific plan about the future of TBCs

Group 3.

1. Regional incentives/economy of scale
2. Statistics and data on a timely basis by system and by county
3. Pines and Resource Sharing is essential and should be studied for improvement. This includes an improved statewide courier system to all libraries, better reports functionality providing directors/managers with better information for management decisions
4. GPLS should respond to requests from the field within 72 hours
5. Systematic statewide training on technology and also technology upgrade/ replacement should be provided. Uber-regional technology consultants should be available for consulting and training
6. Grants should be administered consistently by rule, law and audits; plans and reports should be updated regularly to show progress.

Group 4---Telephone Group

1. *General comments and concerns*
 - LSTA administration
 - Help with contract negotiation similar to AUP
 - Construction
 - Advocacy on state level and promotion of library issues
 - Keep directors current on national trends
 - Write more competitive grants
 - Coordination of writing policies, procedures, etc.
 - Communication of what other libraries are doing
 - Educational opportunities including financial, construction, strong visioning and strategic planning
2. State consultants in the field more
3. Help with construction particularly for setting up financial records, how to do the accounting, and defining who is responsible for what
4. Help with technology

Prioritized list from the telephone group

1. Planning
2. Leadership education
3. Advocacy (salary support as well as state support)
4. Construction

Summary Page:

1. Statistics & Data should be current and timely so that libraries can track trends rather than being far out of date (ie, raw data is preferable to pretty charts)
2. GPLS should help with wide-area contract negotiation, particularly for technical services, software purchases, and other economies of scale
3. Construction policies and grants should reflect/require a strong statement about green building and sustainable design.
4. Grants should be administered consistently with equity and transparency. The funding formulas should be revisited.
5. PINES/Resource sharing are important and should include the statewide courier for all libraries, timely transport of materials, and perhaps more courier service which could include academic libraries.
6. Educational opportunities should include: finance, construction, planning, WebJunction, accounting certification, mentoring/knowledge base, more face to face training, and help with the MLS programs
7. Consultants should be more available for site visits to libraries in the field
8. Equity is perceived as an issue in regard to Pines/non-Pines libraries and the audit situation is another issue
9. Technology requires systematic training and upgrades to equipment, establishing a replacement schedule for equipment, and a statewide contract for technology service is desired
10. TBCs-the 13 subregional systems need specific plans for future service. Planning and requirements are unclear.
11. Responsiveness from GPLS staff requires a 72 hour turnaround time to e-mail and phone messages and the ability to contact a consultant if an emergency arises.
12. Investigate possibility a)of GPLS becoming a separate agency, b)a statewide millage rate, and c)regional incentives for those libraries that wish to be a part of a multi-county cooperative agency.
13. Advocacy—recognize that GPLS serves all libraries in the field and advocate for all public libraries
14. Policy clearing house should be established; directors should have access to all system-wide policies