

Core Message: Public Libraries are the Center of Community Renewal and Transformation.

Instructions: Use this chart for talking points when developing your messages. Choose the ones that you think will resonate the most with your legislator, and keep the chart handy in case someone questions whether or not you were able to do these things in pandemic conditions.

CONDITION	Community Builders & Advocates	Gateway to Knowledge, Culture and Opportunity	Local Economy Boosters
<p style="text-align: center;">All of the time - when buildings are closed</p>	<p>Listen for and assess community needs</p> <p>Work with community partners to meet the needs of our patrons</p> <p>Create virtual spaces for community members to meet</p> <p>Are a catalyst for addressing social problems, like rural broadband access</p>	<p>Curate diverse collections with a variety of topics and viewpoints to connect us to worlds and experiences not our own (available remotely)</p> <p>Provide online courses, databases, and books to help patrons learn new skills</p> <p>Create video tutorials to help people use digital resources</p>	<p>Increase access to Wi-Fi</p> <p>Support local business network; providing meeting software & training on virtual platforms for businesses to utilize virtual meeting spaces</p> <p>Help disadvantaged access government and social safety nets</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Limited access provided via curbside or time constrained visits</p>	<p>Create virtual programming to support connections</p> <p>Coordinate with nearby libraries to provide the fullest range of services possible within a region</p> <p>Develop procedures for safe handling of materials and safe interactions with patrons</p>	<p>Deliver programs and resources in print and analog formats as well as digital</p> <p>Access to computers in the library</p> <p>Have staff available to be information navigators - helping you find the best information the quickest way</p>	<p>Support business leaders in making wise business decisions with library resources and leadership</p> <p>Access to print, copy and fax services</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Full Access</p>	<p>Provide a “Living Room” for the community, where people can just engage with their neighbors</p> <p>Make a safe place to hold civil discourse</p> <p>Collect and amplify the “inherent genius of every cultural community” (Alan Lomax)</p>	<p>Encourage learning in groups, from each other</p> <p>Hold in-person training on technology and resources</p> <p>Curate toys and materials for children to learn to explore their world and share their resources</p>	<p>Space for entrepreneurs to hold meetings</p> <p>Space for employees to hold training programs</p> <p>Create programs to help bridge the economic divide that impacts students’ academic performance.</p>

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LIBRARIES ARE KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Instructions: Think of the list below as prompts; pick two or three and write down a story to support each one. Contact your consultant if you need some support with statistics or data, or just someone to practice with.

Access to stories and information (activated hope, increased empathy, reduced stress, inspired change, improved circumstances)

Supplemental materials for educational institutions to increase literacy and learning for students

Expanded online resources for 24/7 access - Workforce development assistance, online learning, and digital materials.

Tools to evaluate and response to current issues - pandemic, protests, election

Makerspaces - Tools to support innovation and creativity

Prioritized access to the resources our patrons need the most - especially computer access & business services (printing, scanning, faxing)

One-on-one assistance with research needs and computer assistance

Keep people on the job (skills training, access to job postings, application tools via WiFi)

Keeping communities connecting virtually - increased broadband access, eased restrictions on use

Peer-to-Peer social support - programs, interaction with staff, resources, hangout spaces