

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
SYSTEM AREA & PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION

COVER SHEET

Library System: Reaching Across Illinois Library System

Address: 125 Tower Drive

Address 2: _____

City: Burr Ridge State: IL ZIP + Four 60527-5783

Telephone: 630-734-5000

FAX: _____

Person submitting this application:

First Name Monica Last Name Harris

Title: Executive Director Telephone: 630-734-5129

FAX: _____ E-Mail Address: monica.harris@railslibraries.org



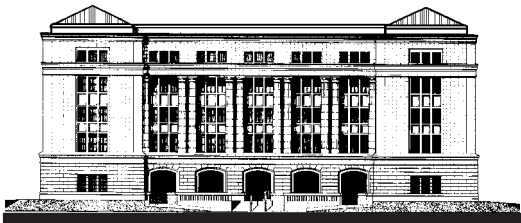
System Board President Signature

May 29, 2026
Date



Executive Director Signature

May 29, 2026
Date



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS • Secretary of State & State Librarian

Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1796

ilsos.gov

Illinois State Library

**Certification of Eligibility for Grants
Pursuant to
75 ILCS 10/ Illinois Library System Act
23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035 Illinois State Library Grant Programs**

Submit with grant application

It is the policy of the State to encourage and protect the freedom of libraries and library systems to acquire materials without external limitation and to be protected against attempts to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to books or other materials.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, by signing below, I certify that the:

Reaching Across Illinois Library System

Name of Library or Agency

☒ **Has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights** that indicates materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Or, in the alternative,

☐ **Is providing a written policy or procedure, approved and in force at the applicant library**, declaring the inherent authority of the library or library system to provide an adequate collection of books and other materials sufficient in size and varied in kind and subject matter to satisfy the library needs of students or patrons served and prohibit the practice of banning specific books or resources.

By signing below, I also certify that at the request of the State Librarian, the library/agency agrees to provide the Illinois State Library with any final decision for reconsideration of library materials during the term of the grant award.

Authorized Signature

Monica Harris

Signature Name (Typed or Printed)

05/29/2026

Date

Executive Director

Title

2.0 System Budget for FY2027

System Area Per Capita Grant Budget Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	FY2027	General Funds	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Proprietary Funds	Fiduciary Funds	Total Budget
2	Revenues						
3	I. State Grants						
4	Area & Per Capita	\$ 11,871,714.00					\$ 11,871,714.00
5	Other State Grants		\$ 188,801.00				\$ 188,801.00
6	II. Federal Grants						\$ -
7	III. Other Grants		\$ 668,937.00				\$ 668,937.00
8	IV. Fees for Services & Materials	\$ 1,332,916.00					\$ 1,332,916.00
9	V. Reimbursements	\$ 3,143,750.00					\$ 3,143,750.00
10	VI. Investment Income	\$ 815,000.00					\$ 815,000.00
11	VII. Other Revenue	\$ 16,148.00					\$ 16,148.00
12	VIII. Gains/ (Losses) on Disposition of Capital Assets						\$ -
13	Estimated Total Revenue	\$ 17,179,528.00	\$ 857,738.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,037,266.00
14							
15	Expenditures						
16	I. Personnel						
17	A. Salaries and Wages						
18	1. Library Professionals	\$ 1,469,982.00	\$ 27,089.00				\$ 1,497,071.00
19	2. Other Professionals	\$ 1,849,594.00					\$ 1,849,594.00
20	3. Support Services	\$ 2,468,214.00					\$ 2,468,214.00
21	B. Payroll Taxes & Benefits						
22	1. Social Security Taxes	\$ 441,755.00	\$ 2,072.00				\$ 443,827.00
23	2. Unemployment Insurance	\$ 37,130.00	\$ 395.00				\$ 37,525.00
24	3. Worker's Compensation	\$ 89,519.00	\$ 19.00				\$ 89,538.00
25	4. Retirement Benefits	\$ 46,191.00					\$ 46,191.00
26	5. Health, Dental & Life Insurance	\$ 1,085,725.00					\$ 1,085,725.00
27	6. Other	\$ 29,700.00					\$ 29,700.00
28	C. Temporary Help	\$ 45,000.00					\$ 45,000.00
29	D. Recruiting	\$ 15,000.00					\$ 15,000.00
30							

2.0 System Budget for FY2027

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
31	II. Library Materials						
32	A. Print Materials	\$ 1,600.00					\$ 1,600.00
33	B. Nonprint Materials						\$ -
34	C. E-Resources	\$ 3,491,750.00					\$ 3,491,750.00
35							
36	III. Buildings & Grounds						
37	A. Rent/lease	\$ 386,203.00					\$ 386,203.00
38	B. Utilities	\$ 148,777.00					\$ 148,777.00
39	C. Property Insurance	\$ 31,576.00					\$ 31,576.00
40	D. Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 48,717.00					\$ 48,717.00
41	E. Custodial/Janitorial Service & Supplies	\$ 78,509.00					\$ 78,509.00
42	F. Other	\$ 20,606.00					\$ 20,606.00
43							
44	IV. Vehicle Expenses						
45	A. Fuel	\$ 381,150.00					\$ 381,150.00
46	B. Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 80,000.00					\$ 80,000.00
47	C. Vehicle Insurance	\$ 202,658.00					\$ 202,658.00
48	D. Vehicle Leasing and Rent						\$ -
49	E. Other	\$ 12,100.00					\$ 12,100.00
50							
51	V. Travel, Meetings and Continuing Education for Staff and Board						
52	A. In-State Travel	\$ 92,394.00	\$ 175.00				\$ 92,569.00
53	B. Out-of-State Travel	\$ 60,924.00					\$ 60,924.00
54	C. Registration and Meetings, Other Fees	\$ 107,860.00	\$ 175.00				\$ 108,035.00
55							
56	VI. Conferences and Continuing Education Meetings	\$ 119,100.00					\$ 119,100.00
57							
58	VII. Public Relations	\$ 25,850.00					\$ 25,850.00

2.0 System Budget for FY2027

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
59							
60	VIII. Liability Insurance	\$ 54,592.00					\$ 54,592.00
61							
62	IX. Supplies, Postage, and Printing						
63	A. Computers, software and supplies	\$ 105,186.00					\$ 105,186.00
64	B. General office supplies and equipment	\$ 57,137.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 57,237.00
65	C. Postage	\$ 17,715.00					\$ 17,715.00
66	D. Binding						\$ -
67	E. Library supplies						\$ -
68	F. Delivery supplies	\$ 67,043.00					\$ 67,043.00
69	G. Other supplies						\$ -
70							
71	X. Telephone and Telecommunications	\$ 56,972.00					\$ 56,972.00
72							
73	XI. Equipment Rental, Repair & Maintenance						
74	A. Equipment Rental	\$ 14,821.00					\$ 14,821.00
75	B. Equipment Repair and Maintenance Agreements	\$ 113,917.00					\$ 113,917.00
76							
77	XII. Professional Services						
78	A. Legal	\$ 35,000.00					\$ 35,000.00
79	B. Accounting	\$ 66,267.00					\$ 66,267.00
80	C. Consulting	\$ 120,450.00	\$ 76,000.00				\$ 196,450.00
81	D. Contractual Staff						\$ -
82							

2.0 System Budget for FY2027

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
83	XIII. Contractual Services						
84	A. Information Service Costs	\$ 51,827.00	\$ 348.00				\$ 52,175.00
85	B. Contractual Agreements with systems, member libraries and other cooperatives	\$ 2,218,995.00	\$ 121,540.00				\$ 2,340,535.00
86	C. Outside Printing Services						\$ -
87	D. Other	\$ 1,600,205.00	\$ 629,825.00				\$ 2,230,030.00
88							
89	XIV. Depreciation						\$ -
90							
91	XV. Professional Association Membership Dues	\$ 14,798.00					\$ 14,798.00
92							
93	XVI. Miscellaneous	\$ 14,485.00					\$ 14,485.00
94							
95	XVII. Capital Outlays						
96	A. Equipment						\$ -
97	B. Computers (both software and hardware)						\$ -
98	C. Furniture and Fixtures						\$ -
99	D. Building and Improvements			\$ 222,000.00			\$ 222,000.00
100	E. Land						\$ -
101	F. Vehicles			\$ 691,577.00			\$ 691,577.00
102							
103	XVIII. Debt Service						
104	Principal						\$ -
105	Interest						\$ -
106							
107	Estimated Total Expenditures	\$ 17,476,994.00	\$ 857,738.00	\$ 913,577.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,248,309.00
108	Excess of Estimate Revenue Over (Under) Estimated Expenditures	\$ (297,466.00)	\$ -	\$ (913,577.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,211,043.00)

2.1 Delivery Budget Supplement for FY2027:

Breakout Between State Funds and Federal (LSTA) Funds as it Relates to Library System Delivery (not ILDS)

DELIVERY REVENUE SOURCE		State Funds	Federal (LSTA) Funds
	Area & Per Capita Grant		\$ 1,951,654.00
	Other State Grants		
	Federal Grants		
	Other Grants		
	Fees	\$ 16,698.00	
	Reimbursements		
	Investment Income		
	Other Revenue	\$ 1,000.00	
Budgeted to		\$ 17,698.00	\$ 1,951,654.00
DELIVERY EXPENDITURES		State Funds	Federal (LSTA) Funds
Delivery Personnel:			
	Library Professionals		
	Other Professional	\$ 145,854.00	\$ 240,000.00
	Support Services	\$ 824,259.00	\$ 865,511.00
	Social Security Taxes (FICA)	\$ 108,788.00	\$ 50,000.00
	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 18,307.00	
	Workmen's Compensation	\$ 74,204.00	
	Retirement Benefits	\$ 16,346.00	
	Health, Dental & Life Insurance	\$ 525,367.00	
	Other Professional		
	Temporary Help	\$ 36,865.00	
	Recruitment		
Total		\$ 1,749,990.00	\$ 1,155,511.00
Delivery Buildings and Grounds:			
	Rent	\$ 293,019.00	
	Utilities	\$ 30,341.00	
	Property Insurance	\$ 17,462.00	
	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 22,798.00	
	Custodial and Janitorial Service & Supplies	\$ 37,914.00	
	Other	\$ 8,090.00	
Total		\$ 409,624.00	\$ -

Delivery Vehicle Expense:			
	Fuel	\$ 327,157.00	
	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 65,872.00	
	Vehicle Insurance	\$ 156,294.00	
	Vehicle Leasing & Rent		
	Other	\$ 10,002.00	
Total		\$ 559,325.00	\$ -
Travel, Meetings and CE for Delivery Staff			
	In-State Travel	\$ 5,839.00	
	Out-of-State Travel		
	Registrations, Meetings and Fees	\$ 3,794.00	
	Conferences and Continuing Education Meetings		
Total		\$ 9,633.00	\$ -
Delivery Liability Insurance:			
Total		\$ 28,295.00	\$ -
Supplies, Postage and Printing:			
	Computer Software and Supplies	\$ 15,601.00	
	General Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 4,885.00	
	Postage	\$ 3,572.00	
	Binding		
	Library Supplies		
	Delivery Supplies	\$ 54,311.00	
Total		\$ 78,369.00	\$ -
Delivery Telephone & Telecomm			
	Local/Long Distance - Voice	\$ 26,075.00	
	Telecomm - Data & Fax		
Total		\$ 26,075.00	\$ -
Delivery Equipment Rental, Repair and Maintenance:			
	Equipment Rental	\$ 6,036.00	
	Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$ 679.00	
	Maintenance Agreement		
	Computer Hardware Insurance		
Total		\$ 6,715.00	\$ -

Delivery Professional Services:			
	Legal		
	Accounting		
	Consulting	\$ 2,809.00	
	Contractual Staff		
	Total	\$ 2,809.00	\$ -
Delivery Contractual Services:			
	Contractual Agreements with commercial carriers	\$ 278,462.00	\$ 796,143.00
	Total	\$ 278,462.00	\$ 796,143.00
Delivery Capital Outlays:			
	Equipment		
	Computer hardware and software		
	Furniture & Fixtures		
	Building and Improvements		
	Land		
	Vehicles		
	Total	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditures Budgeted to Support Library System Delivery		\$ 3,149,297.00	\$ 1,951,654.00

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

2.2 Detailed Budget Narrative

This budget narrative as a component of the Area and Per Capita (APC) grant application provides an overview and a programmatic analysis of the proposed budget that supports our fiscal year (FY) 2027 operational plan. Its purpose is to enhance understanding of the budget components and how the budget supports and aligns with our operational plan. All comparisons made to the prior year budget refer to the FY2026 budget. We have included an attachment showing line-item details of the FY2027 budget and FY2026 budget, with a breakdown by administration, delivery and LLSAP support revenues and expenditures, and a comparison of the two.

Inflation has continued to increase our costs since we received the additional APC grant funding from the Illinois Office of the Secretary of State during FY2023. As a result of these economic pressures, RAILS is presenting a deficit budget for FY2027. We expect to continue to experience increased expenses while working to enhance current services and pursue innovative programs and initiatives for our members in support of our operational plan that is based on our strategic plan:

- Keeping our salaries competitive and equitable while keeping our organizational structure sustainable given the ever-changing and increasing service needs of our member libraries
- Anticipating increased fuel costs that affect our own fuel costs as well as our delivery outsourcing contractor costs, and our fuel surcharge that we bill to the Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) for the Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS)
- Expecting increases in all insurance costs for calendar year 2027
- Offering grants for libraries that wish to join one of the six Local Library System Automation Programs (LLSAPs) that we support
- Supporting the growth and sustainability of our deals and discounts program to meet the ever-changing needs of our member libraries
- Purchasing eleven replacement delivery fleet vehicles to remain on a consistent replacement schedule for our fleet
- Replacing staff laptop docking stations across the organization
- Waiving eRead Illinois membership fees for K-12 school members for FY2027 due to interrupted access during FY2026

In addition, RAILS continues to support multiple statewide projects, including:

- Providing high-quality delivery services to CARLI members via (ILDS)
- Maintaining and developing the Library Learning (L2) website
- Leading and promoting the Find More Illinois (FMI) program
- Offering the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Open Meetings Act (OMA) hotline
- Developing and promoting Inkie.org
- Leading the Explore More Illinois program
- Leading the eRead Illinois program
- Offering the world language cataloging services program

- Leading the SLATE project
- Offering the My Library Is grants
- Collaborating with partner organizations to plan networking opportunities, promote availability of statewide electronic resources package, plan Directors University, advocate for more certified school librarians, trustee training, fair e-resource pricing, and increased broadband access

In FY2027, RAILS is planning to continue to grow the deals and discounts program, the Find More Illinois program, and advocacy efforts for libraries to tell their stories. As in prior years, the Federal portion of our APC grant funds (\$1,951,654) will be used to support our delivery service to our members. A portion of these funds are used for our delivery staff salaries, and the remaining portion is used for our contractual agreement with our delivery outsourcing vendor who provides delivery services to a portion of our member libraries.

The FY2026 General Fund was budgeted to have a surplus of \$113,112. For FY2027, the General Fund is budgeted to have a deficit of \$297,466, and we have several FY2027 purchases planned from our Capital Projects Fund (\$913,577) which brings our total FY2027 budget to a \$1,211,043 deficit. The FY2027 budget incorporates several continuing projects from FY2026 at the current level of need as well as several new projects based on member feedback and needs. Both the world language cataloging services program as well as the maintenance and development of L2 are expected to be funded through separate grants from the Illinois State Library (ISL). The budget that we are presenting includes all the services that RAILS believes we should be providing to our members to meet the operational plan and our strategic plan goals while keeping RAILS' current services for our member libraries sustainable for the long term.

The FY2027 budget reflects the full transition of the Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) staff from being employed by RAILS to being employed directly by RSA.

RAILS deferred vehicle purchases for several years due to market shortages, but beginning in FY2024, RAILS has been able to consistently maintain a regular replacement schedule for our fleet. To continue our regular replacement schedule for our fleet, RAILS plans to purchase eleven replacement delivery vehicles during FY2027.

Summary

The proposed FY2027 operational plan continues its support of programs and activities included in the RAILS operational plan guided by the RAILS Strategic Plan approved by the RAILS Board in January 2022. Major activities include:

- Support for libraries to join LLSAPs
- System delivery and ILDS
- Find More Illinois
- Maintenance and continued development of L2
- Continuing education and training for members, including public library trustees
- Data collection for deals & discounts, delivery, LLSAPs, schools, etc.
- eRead Illinois
- Explore More Illinois
- Deals and discounts
- Grants to help show the value of libraries through the My Library Is program

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- World language cataloging services and cataloging training for member library staff
- Advocacy around emerging issues for member libraries, resources, and library systems

As in past years, we used zero-based budgeting, meaning we developed the FY2027 budget from the ground up. We included all activities that we believe are necessary to support our operational and strategic plans.

Revenues

General Fund revenues of \$17,179,528 are budgeted to increase \$150,373 from the FY2026 budget. This increase is primarily due to the increases in reimbursements (\$337,000), partially offset by decreases in fees for services and materials (\$120,431), investment income (\$62,000), and other revenue (\$4,196).

Special Revenue Fund activity continues to be budgeted for FY2027, including the continuing grant from the Cook County Digital Equity Fund that RAILS was awarded in May 2025. Work on this grant will be wrapped up by the end of November 2026 with the total expected activity during FY2027 to be \$668,937. In addition, RAILS will be submitting applications for two technology grants from the Illinois State Library for the continued development and maintenance of L2 (\$85,066) as well as the world language cataloging services program (\$103,735).

Expenditures

Budgeted general fund expenditures of \$17,476,994 are \$560,951 above the FY2026 budgeted amounts. Expenditure categories that are expected to grow from the prior year are contractual services (\$802,330); vehicle expenses (\$112,005); library materials (\$89,375); and buildings and grounds (\$18,751). Major expenditure categories that are expected to decrease are personnel (\$286,154); supplies, postage, and printing (\$90,193); professional services (\$50,347); telephone and telecom expenses (\$20,733); and travel and continuing education (\$10,874).

For the General Fund, we are budgeting total estimated expenditures exceeding estimated revenues by \$297,466. Special Revenue Fund revenues offset expenditures for the three programs that are budgeted. We are budgeting \$913,577 of expenditures from the Capital Projects Fund, which has no budgeted revenues. As in FY2026, we have budgeted Area and Per Capita grant revenues of \$11,871,714, which includes \$1,951,654 from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). FY2027 will be the sixth year of our world language cataloging services program and our continued maintenance and development of the L2 platform that supports the statewide directory of libraries and library learning events in Illinois.

Revenue Details

FY2027 estimated total revenues of \$18,037,266 consist of General Fund and Special Revenue Fund revenues.

APC grant revenues (\$11,871,714) are budgeted at the FY2026 award amount. The APC grant amount accounts for 69.10% of the General Fund revenue budget. Excluding reimbursement revenues, the percentage increases to 84.58%.

General Fund fees for services and materials of \$1,332,916 are budgeted to decrease \$120,431 from the FY2026 budget primarily due to the waiving of membership fees for the K-12 eRead Illinois members (\$148,000) for FY2027 due to the FY2026 transition from Baker & Taylor's Boundless platform to Lyris's The Palace Project platform resulting in interruptions in access for some K-12 member libraries. The discounted HR Source membership participation is anticipated to decrease (\$1,550) due to member libraries growing out of participation eligibility criteria. These decreases are partially offset by the contractual 4% increase in ILDS contract fees and expected fuel surcharges for statewide delivery (\$30,466). Fees included in the budget are:

- ILDS contract fees for statewide delivery to academic institutions (\$808,826), billed to offset personnel, contractual services, and overhead costs that are devoted to providing this service
- eRead Illinois membership fees (\$340,000), which directly support purchases of content for the program
- FMI membership fees (\$160,000), which partially offset program costs and help to ensure the sustainability of the program
- Discounted HR Source membership for participating libraries (\$23,250), billed on a sliding scale that partially offset RAILS' expenditures
- CE lunch fees for in-person library continuing education events (\$840) to offset RAILS catering costs

General Fund reimbursements of \$3,143,750 are budgeted to increase \$337,000 from the FY2026 budget. RAILS's database offerings to complement and enhance the Statewide Database Package are anticipated to increase \$200,000 from participation levels in FY2026. The rest of the deals and discounts program also continues to see expansion. Significant increases include an additional \$45,000 in subscriptions for Press Reader as well as two new products - Blinkist \$15,000 and Playgarden Online (\$10,000). To address member needs and requests that arise during the fiscal year, we are budgeting a provision of \$100,000. The major deals and discounts budgeted for FY2027 are the EBSCO databases (\$900,000), Communico Cloud (\$500,000), several Gale products (\$351,000), Press Reader (\$275,000), Brainfuse (\$250,000), SWANK (\$215,000), CreativeBug (\$110,000), and JSTOR (\$100,000). Amounts budgeted as reimbursement revenues are beneficial to RAILS' members as they provide economies of scale for collaborative purchasing initiatives to help scarce member library dollars stretch as far as possible and to increase resource sharing. These revenues have no impact upon fund balances as they offset corresponding library materials expenditures.

Investment income of \$815,000 is budgeted for FY2027, a decrease of \$62,000 from the \$877,000 budgeted for the prior year. Interest rates are projected to decrease in the next calendar year with the central tendency of the Federal Reserve's projections at their March 2026 meeting ranging between 3.1% and 3.6% for CY2026 and 2.9% and 3.6% for CY2027. To remain conservative, RAILS is projecting average interest rate at 2.9% for the entirety of FY2027. The total projected interest income also incorporates the advantageous rates that we have locked in with our series of ladder investments. These projections assume that we will continue to receive APC funding in the same pattern as FY2026.

Prairie Area Library System (PALS), one of our predecessor systems, was the recipient of a donation of a tract of land adjacent to our facility. This land has a billboard, and PALS was able to establish an agreement with an advertising company that has been maintained by RAILS. RAILS expects to receive \$1,000 in rental income for the use of the sign which reimburses RAILS for the cost of maintaining the lawn and paying property taxes on this tract of land.

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We continue to retain an outside consultant to continue our e-rate filings. We anticipate the receipt of \$13,748 of reimbursements for our internet services in FY2027.

Other revenues are budgeted at \$1,400, which decreased \$3,600 from the FY2026 budget. These are primarily amounts received as credit card cash back rebates as well as sales of Illinois Library Law books that RAILS purchases at the ILA member rate and delivers to our member libraries. RAILS receives cashback rebates equivalent to 1% of purchases made using our organization credit cards. Member library book purchases are budgeted to be minimal in FY2027, since the last edition was published in January 2024 and purchases have dropped off.

Expenditure Details

Personnel

General Fund personnel-related expenditures of \$7,577,810 are budgeted to decrease \$286,154, or 3.64%, from the prior year budget. Personnel-related expenditures are budgeted to account for 43.37% of total general fund expenditures, compared to 46.49% in the FY2026 budget, comprising the largest single category of RAILS expenditures. The FY2027 budget for salary expenditures incorporates the following highlights and assumptions:

- The full-year transition of the ten positions that served RSA to direct employment with RSA as of January 1, 2026, is reflected in the FY2027 budget. The impact of this transition is a \$458,075 decrease in salary and salary-related expenditures.
- The pausing of the intern program for FY2027. The impact of this change from FY2026 is \$17,198.
- A system-wide 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase has been included to keep pace with Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases and remain competitive. The total impact of this 3% increase is approximately \$204,704, including salaries and benefits for existing staff and turnover that occurred during FY2026.
- The budget incorporates the FY2026 conversion of the Special Projects Librarian position from part-time to full-time to support the growth in the Explore More Illinois program as well as the changes in the eRead Illinois program. The impact of this change is a \$51,783 increase, including benefits.
- The budget incorporates an overall 13.60% anticipated increase in health insurance costs for the second half of FY2027, including the most recent open enrollment elections and a full year of RSA staff independence. The impact of these changes was a \$43,639 increase.
- With the continued and increased demand for the world language cataloging program, the budget also incorporates the continuation of a temporary part-time cataloging services assistant position. The impact of continuing this position is \$29,575, including salary and salary-related expenditures. This position is budgeted in the Special Revenue Fund with the anticipation that it will be covered by the world language cataloging services grant from the Illinois State Library.
- The budget also incorporates adjustments for three existing positions to bring them into alignment for equity within the established pay scale. The impact of these changes is a \$20,123 increase, including salary and salary-related expenditures.
- The budget incorporates a salary adjustment for another position that was benchmarked after significant changes to core job responsibilities. The impact of this change was approximately a \$10,607 increase, including salary and salary-related expenditures.

General Fund salary expenditures of \$5,787,790 are budgeted to decrease \$245,197, or 4.06%, from the prior year budget. LLSAP salaries are anticipated to decrease \$373,774 due to the RSA staff being hired directly by RSA as of January 1, 2026. This decrease is partially offset by an increase in administrative salaries (\$101,972) and delivery salaries (\$26,605).

The budget for social security taxes (\$441,755) decreased \$18,904, or 4.10%, which corresponds to the decrease in budgeted salaries. Unemployment insurance (\$37,130) is budgeted to increase \$548, or 1.50%, due to the rate increase in CY2026 and another expected increase in CY2027. Since the rate is based on the last three years' experience and does include an experience factor for the state of Illinois, it can have large fluctuations. Given the current uncertainty around inflation and the job market, this anticipated increase allows for wider statewide fluctuations that could occur during the second half of CY2026. Worker's compensation expenditures (\$89,519) are budgeted to decrease \$67,906, or 43.14%, due to the results of the last insurance renewal which included several credits and lower rates as well as the independence of the RSA staff. These increases are partially offset by increase in budgeted salaries and an overall expected 7% increase in rates.

Retirement benefits (\$46,191) are budgeted to decrease \$734, or 1.56% from the FY2026 budget due to the independence of the RSA staff and delivery staff turnover, partially offset by a slight increase in the employer contribution rate from .79% for CY2026 to .82% for CY2027. RAILS pension obligations are funded in excess of 100%, resulting in low funding obligations for FY2027 and FY2026. RAILS anticipates decreases in our employer reserve that will affect FY2028, primarily around fluctuations in investment markets that will affect IMRF's investment earnings. IMRF smooths investment earnings fluctuations over five years to keep rates more predictable for employers. RAILS' funding percentage increased from 112.47% to 118.39% from the end of calendar year 2024 to calendar year 2025.

Health, dental, and life insurance expenditures of \$1,085,725 are budgeted to increase \$43,639, or 4.19% from the FY2026 budget due to an anticipated 13.60% increase in health insurance premiums for the second half of the year, a 10% increase in dental premiums, and a 2% increase in vision premiums. The health, dental and life insurance budget is constructed on a departmental and location basis based on the current staff elections and adjusted for future cost increases. RAILS is continuing the health reimbursement account (HRA) program, which was first implemented in FY2017, in which employees participate in a higher deductible (\$2,000) PPO program, but retain the low deductible (\$500) benefit.

Other fringe benefits of \$29,700 are budgeted to increase \$1,900. This account includes provisions to reimburse employees for additional deductible expenses incurred under the HRA program (\$4,400), the health savings account (HSA) program (\$14,000), the staff tuition assistance program (\$10,000), and various administrative fees.

The FY2027 budget of \$45,000 for temporary help, all of which is budgeted for the delivery department, remains level with the FY2026 budget. Recruiting expenditures of \$15,000 are budgeted to increase \$500 from the FY2026 budget primarily due to the implementation of physical exams for new hires who will hold positions with physical requirements as well as greater than anticipated job advertisement costs.

Collectively, FY2027 General Fund personnel expenditures are budgeted to decrease \$286,154, or 3.64% from the FY2026 budget. This decrease is due primarily to the RSA staff independence partially offset by the 3% COLA increases and anticipated increases in health, dental and vision costs.

Library Materials

Library materials expenditures (\$3,493,350) are budgeted to increase \$89,375, or 2.63% from the FY2026 budget. Deals and discounts E-resources expenditures of \$3,143,750 are budgeted, compared to \$2,806,750 budgeted for FY2026. These expenditures are offset by reimbursement revenues and will have no impact on fund balances. In addition, the budget provides that RAILS will use the proceeds of its eRead Illinois membership fees (\$340,000), \$148,000 below the FY2026 budget, to purchase e-books for the eRead Illinois shared collection. Finally, the budget provides for the purchase (\$7,000) of the Public Web Browser for member libraries. The Public Web Browser purchases will be provided at no cost to the membership. Lastly, we are budgeting for the purchase of a subscription for the RDA Toolkit (\$1,000) which is used by a RAILS staff member to provide cataloging training to member library staff.

Buildings and Grounds

Total buildings and grounds expenditures of \$714,388 are budgeted to increase \$18,751, or 2.70% from the FY2026 budget primarily due to increases in custodial/janitorial services and supplies, utility costs, and the increases built into the leases for the East Peoria, Rockford, and Bolingbrook facilities.

Utilities are budgeted to increase \$6,847 due primarily to an increase from \$.06326 per kwh to \$.08165 per kwh in the new three-year fixed rate energy agreement negotiated by the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC). This new agreement ends May 2029. We are anticipating a slightly milder upcoming winter, and we now have data to determine a more precise estimate of the utility needs for the increased sorting space in Bolingbrook.

Property insurance increased \$722 primarily due to an expected 7% increase in rates due to nationwide casualty losses coupled with a much more favorable insurance renewal than we had anticipated for CY2026.

Repairs and maintenance are expected to decrease \$5,509 primarily due to the FY2026 Burr Ridge office signage project partially offset by increased vendor costs for lawn maintenance, snow removal, and facility repairs. Additionally, we are planning for tuckpointing in FY2027 to properly maintain the Coal Valley facility per the facilities assessment that we had performed during FY2026.

Custodial/janitorial services and supplies increased \$11,239 primarily due to increased cleaning needs for the Bolingbrook sorting area to keep dust at a minimum as well as increases in labor and supplies costs from our vendors.

Other buildings and grounds expenses are expected to increase \$1,960 primarily due to increased vendor costs as well as additional inspection and license costs for our increases sorting operation at our Bolingbrook facility.

Vehicle Expenditures

Total vehicle expenditures of \$675,908 are budgeted to increase \$112,005, or 19.86% from the FY2026 budget, primarily from increases in fuel (\$110,983), insurance (\$11,122), and other vehicle expenditures (\$4,100), partially offset by decreased vehicle repairs and maintenance (\$14,200).

The FY2026 budget assumes fuel prices increasing from \$3.14 per gallon to \$4.50 per gallon with a 2,000 gallon decrease in overall fuel usage. Due to the conflict in the Middle East that is affecting the Strait of Hormuz, fuel prices have dramatically increased since the end of February 2026. The average fuel price as of the beginning of May 2026 has risen to \$4.46 per gallon from an average price of \$2.63 in February

2026. By continuing to stay on a regular replacement schedule for our fleet, we are experiencing better fuel economy, allowing us to lower the fuel usage estimate from 87,000 gallons in FY2026 to 85,000 gallons for FY2027.

Vehicle repairs and maintenance are anticipated to decrease \$14,200 in FY2027 due to the continued regular replacement of RAILS's delivery fleet.

The FY2027 vehicle insurance expenditures (\$202,658) are budgeted to increase \$11,122 due to an anticipated 7% premium increase, partially offset by a more favorable than anticipated CY2026 insurance renewal.

Other vehicle expenditures (\$12,100) are expected to increase (\$4,100) due to the purchase of eleven replacement vehicles that will need to be RAILS-branded during FY2027.

Travel, Meetings and Continuing Education

Total expenditures of \$380,278 for this category are budgeted to decrease \$10,874, or 2.78%.

In-state and out-of-state travel expenditures decreased \$343 and increased \$8,974, respectively from the FY2026 budget. FY2027 budgeted in-state travel expenditures decreased slightly due to the ALA conference being held in New Orleans instead of Chicago as well as the AISLE conference being held in Lombard instead of Champaign. FY2027 budgeted out-of-state travel expenditures increased due to the New Orleans location of the ALA conference as well as the planned attendance of an additional RAILS staff member at the National Library Legislative Day event in Washington, D.C. and an additional library resources staff member attending the Charleston Library conference.

Registrations and meetings (\$107,860) expenditures are budgeted to decrease \$4,805 from the FY2026 budget. These expenditures primarily include registration fees and sponsorships, if applicable, for all conferences and courses as well as various board meeting and hospitality expenditures. These expenditures decreased from the prior year budget primarily due to PLA being a biannual event that was last held in FY2026. As in FY2026, we also included a small but slightly increased amount for celebration of staff milestone events, including retirements for staff at all our service centers.

The FY2027 continuing education budget of \$119,100 is budgeted to decrease \$14,700 from the FY2026 budget. These funds are used to provide continuing education (CE) and consulting on the topics of library advocacy; management and practice; interlibrary loan (ILL) and the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code; the RAILS Resource Sharing Policy; issues and challenges; nonresident services; per capita grant requirements and standards; strategic planning; and many other topics. The program primarily relies on outside, paid trainers and consulting sources to satisfy these needs. Costs include speaker fees and travel, facility, hospitality, and other associated costs. These funds are also used to cover several subscriptions that provide learning and growth for our member libraries. After tracking the usage of the Freedom Lifted subscription over the past several years, we determined in FY2027 that these funds would better serve our members by discontinuing this subscription and focusing on continuing to offer EDI-focused CE events that reach more RAILS members. FY2027 is the second year of Niche Academy. The budget provides for continuing education in the following categories:

- General — \$51,500 — Continued offerings of workshops, webinars, HR Source, and other events
- Niche Academy learning platform — \$36,100 — Learning platform for RAILS members

- CE event grants — \$16,000 — Continuing to support library leadership and EDI
- Leadership cohort developmental work – \$15,000 – Developing opportunities for libraries to grow and develop in their leadership
- Directors University scholarships – \$500 – Assistance for member libraries with demonstrated need to cover their registration fees to attend Directors University

Public Relations

Public Relations expenditures of \$25,850 are budgeted to decrease \$3,050 from the FY2026 budget due primarily to the FY2026 completion of the larger eRead Illinois promotional material printing project. This expenditure line includes \$12,100 for RAILS branded conference promotional materials, \$5,000 for the Remo platform for the Illinois School Library Workers Symposium, \$4,000 for eRead Illinois and Find More Illinois materials printing, \$3,000 for postcards and mailings for library data collections and RAILS board election, \$1,500 for the platform for a deals and discounts virtual vendor day event, as well as \$250 for custom printed conference booth supplies. RAILS is applying for a grant to cover the costs of the Remo platform as we have done in prior years, but we are presenting the full costs if the grant is not awarded to us.

Liability Insurance

Liability insurance expenditures of \$54,592 are budgeted to decrease \$1,392 from the FY2026 budget, primarily from a less than anticipated CY2026 renewal increase. This is partially offset by an anticipated 7% increase in CY2027 rates due to nationwide loss exposure from employment claims, cyber liability claims, weather-related claims, and claims for digital accessibility.

Supplies, Postage and Printing

Total expenditures of \$247,081 for this category are budgeted to decrease \$90,193 from the FY2026 budget, primarily from a \$96,940 decrease in computers, software, and supplies. This decrease is primarily due to the FY2026 completion of the staff computer replacement project (\$100,000). Additional decreased costs include a continued investigation of the transition to cloud-based hosting for RAILS websites with a transition planned at a future time as well as less than anticipated Microsoft Office 365 subscription costs. These decreases are partially offset by normal increases in subscription costs and the purchase of additional licenses for Microsoft Copilot for staff use (\$4,752).

General office supplies expenditures decreased \$9,766 due primarily to the FY2026 completion of the directional signage project at the Burr Ridge office. FY2026 included an allowance for updated resource sharing map printing through an outside vendor. This work was accomplished in-house by the RAILS data team who created a searchable and dynamic resource sharing map that is being used for library advocacy throughout the state. The FY2027 budget for general office supplies includes \$20,000 for replacement office furniture purchases for Burr Ridge to be used as staff needs arise.

Postage costs continue to increase, and, during FY2026, RAILS replaced the postage meter at Burr Ridge to remain compliant with USPS standards. This replacement did result in an increase in maintenance costs.

Delivery supplies expenditures of \$67,043 increased \$14,343 due primarily to the need to increase delivery label orders from five million per year to six million per year. For the past two fiscal years, RAILS has needed to issue an advance release of our orders to accommodate increase in member library needs.

Telephone and Telecommunications

FY2027 budgeted expenditures of \$56,972 are budgeted to decrease \$20,733 due to cost savings achieved through the combining of the internet line and bandwidth services for Burr Ridge and Bolingbrook under one provider. Additionally, our GPS tracking services were moved to a new vendor during FY2026, resulting in significant overall savings and better data reliability. Lastly, our cellular services were reviewed and pricing was renegotiated.

Equipment Rental, Repair & Maintenance

Total expenditures of \$128,738 for this category are budgeted to decrease \$761 from the FY2026 budget, primarily due to decreased equipment repair and maintenance agreements. The budget includes existing contracts for HVAC maintenance, generator maintenance, copier equipment, and annual maintenance expenditures on various equipment and software, including Zoom. This decrease is primarily due to the removal of ten licenses from Zoom web conference partially offset by the addition of Zoom video to our overall subscription.

Professional Services

Total expenditures of \$221,717 for this category are budgeted to decrease \$50,347 from the FY2026 budget, primarily from a \$36,750 decrease in consulting expenditures. This was primarily due to not anticipating any consulting work for the FMI program during FY2027 (\$10,000), the reduction of the budget for captioning work to match actual expenditures (reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000 in FY2027), and the completion of the FMI logo redesign in FY2026 (\$6,000). Consulting expenditures include a provision for strategic planning (\$20,000), consulting for best practices for AI (\$10,000), EDI consulting for staff (\$10,000), advocacy consulting for our member libraries (\$10,000), and live human captioning services for increased accessibility (\$5,000).

FY2027 budgeted consulting expenditures of \$120,450 consist of:

- HR Source discounted membership program - \$47,250
- Strategic planning - \$20,000
- FOIA/OMA hotline - \$12,000
- Best Practices for AI - \$10,000
- EDI consulting - \$10,000
- Advocacy consulting \$10,000
- Live human captioning services - \$5,000
- Structural engineering services for Coal Valley facility - \$3,000
- e-Rate Consulting - \$2,200
- Digital accessibility consulting - \$500
- Translation services - \$500

We are continuing to develop contracts with consultants in a variety of areas for which libraries and RAILS have needs. These needs and priorities change from year to year, as will the amounts that we have budgeted. We have not hired permanent staff to provide consulting services, as that service model limits our ability to respond to changing financial conditions and the needs of members. The HR Source membership program is partially reimbursed by fees that are billed on a sliding scale to participating libraries.

Legal fees of \$35,000 are budgeted to decrease \$15,000 due primarily to the completion of the collective bargaining renegotiation process during FY2026 for a small number of covered staff.

Accounting fees are budgeted to increase \$1,403 from FY2026 due primarily to the annual increase in payroll processing costs as well as a small annual increase for the second year of our five-year audit agreement.

Contractual Services

Total expenditures of \$3,871,027 for this category are budgeted to increase \$802,330 from the FY2026 budget, due primarily due to an increase in contractual agreements with systems, member libraries and other cooperatives (\$495,146), other contractual services (\$297,423), as well as an increase in information service costs (\$9,761).

The FY2027 budget for agreements with systems, member libraries, and other cooperatives expenditures (\$2,218,995) is \$495,146 above the FY2026 budget primarily due to increases in LLSAP support (\$492,840) and administration expenditures (\$2,306). LLSAP direct support expenditures increased \$492,840 from the FY2026 budget, as RSA directly hired the former RAILS staff members who supported their operations as of January 1, 2026. With this transition, vehicle expenses and travel costs were transitioned to RSA, and, during FY2027, information technology expenses and support will also transition to RSA. These costs were deducted from their support grant payments, so this change reflects a shifting of these costs between budget lines. RAILS intends to continue its support payments to six entities in FY2027, three of which (CCS, Rock River, and Pinnacle) were added in FY2020. The FY2027 and FY2026 support payments are shown below:

	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
CCS	\$ 215,563	\$ 223,995
Pinnacle	54,323	56,527
PrairieCat	534,487	527,062
RRLC	75,776	71,504
RSA	702,118	224,713
SWAN	515,768	501,394
 Total Direct LLSAP Support	 \$ 2,098,035	 \$ 1,605,195

The FY2027 total support allocations to PrairieCat and RSA, both of which receive varying levels of in-kind support from RAILS in addition to the monetary awards above, are \$588,630 and \$799,940, respectively.

Contractual agreements for administration increased \$2,306 primarily due to increases in the indirect costs recorded in the General Fund for the three grants budgeted in the Special Revenue Fund. These costs include RAILS staff member time, travel, and other overhead costs. This is partially offset by a decrease in cataloging membership grant needs from \$150,000 in FY2026 to \$83,000 in FY2027. These grants are budgeted based on expressed interest and anticipated needs.

Other contractual services expenditures of \$1,600,205 are expected to increase \$297,423 primarily due to a \$162,323 increase in the budgeted delivery services contract with CTL. This includes the contractual 5% increase in CTL's delivery services fees as well as the anticipated fuel price increase from an average of \$3.14 per gallon to \$5.00 per gallon at the non-tax-exempt rate. This shift in fuel prices sets the average

fuel surcharge from CTL at 12%. Additional increases of \$135,100 are due to the addition of the eRead Illinois platform fee (\$105,000) as well as the second payment for the perpetual licenses for high-demand Illinois history titles (\$50,000).

The FY2027 other contractual services budget provides for administration expenditures of \$525,600, an increase of \$135,100 from the FY2026 budget. These expenditures include:

- Find More Illinois platform expenditures of \$140,000
- eRead Illinois platform expenditures of \$105,000
- BiblioLabs platform expenditures of \$70,000 to support the statewide Inkie.org program which promotes local self-published author materials
- Explore More Illinois platform expenditures of \$70,000 to support and expand the program, which connects library patrons to deals and discounts from museums and other cultural attractions
- Perpetual licensing second installment costs for Illinois history titles of \$50,000 to save on long-term costs
- Consortia Manager expenditures of \$35,000 to provide an infrastructure for managing member library deals and discounts while allowing for the expansion and increased efficiency of the program
- A provision of \$25,000, which is RAILS' investment to continue and encourage participation in the Smart Horizons Career Online High School group purchase offer
- A provision of \$25,000, which is RAILS' investment to encourage adoption of the Gale Excel high school group purchase offer
- Backstage Library Works expenditures of \$5,000 for the bibliographic MARC records processing for eRead Illinois
- A provision of \$600 for potential records shredding in compliance with our Illinois State approved records retention plan

Information services costs increased (\$9,761) primarily due to additional costs to upgrade our email lists for members for security and sustainability. This upgrade includes \$4,692 in one-time costs and an increase in annual costs of approximately \$3,500.

Professional Association Membership Dues

Total expenditures of \$14,798 for this category are budgeted to increase \$2,459 from the FY2026 budget, due primarily to the addition of an organizational membership for the Government Management Information Sciences International as well as the Government Finance Officers Association. In addition, RAILS's organization membership costs for ALA are expected to increase.

Miscellaneous

Total expenditures of \$14,485 for this category are budgeted to decrease \$465 from the FY2026 budget. This decrease is due to decreased minor expenses for administration and delivery partially offset by the anticipated expense to replenish check stock supplies during FY2027. This account is used for bank fees, credit card fees, and other minor expenses.

Special Revenue Fund Grant Expenditures

Expenditures of \$857,738 are budgeted for FY2027 and are anticipated to be completely offset by grant revenues.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application | May 31, 2026

RAILS was awarded \$850,000 from the Cook County Digital Equity Fund to establish a digital navigator network in libraries within suburban Cook County. Of this total amount, \$668,937 of the grant activity is budgeted to occur between July and November of 2026. The bulk of this amount (\$570,500) will be distributed to all eligible suburban Cook County libraries in July 2026 as sub-grants. RAILS will continue to work with the outside consultant for planning and outreach (\$36,000), and the remaining amount of the grant (\$62,437) will be used to cover RAILS staff time spent administering, developing, evaluating, and managing the project including expected staff travel and other costs for administering the grant.

FY2027 is the sixth year of both the world language cataloging services and the continuing maintenance and development of L2 grants. As in prior years, RAILS has applied for funding to support both services, and we anticipate receiving a funding decision shortly after the start of FY2027.

Total expenditures for the world language cataloging services program (\$103,735) include a portion of the Cataloging Services Manager's time spent on the project (\$24,280) as well as a temporary part-time Cataloging Services Assistant position (\$29,575). Additional expenditures for this grant include cataloging fees for the third-party cataloging service that catalogs items that cannot be translated in-house (\$40,000), an amount for travel for a potential program at the ILA Reaching Forward North conference (\$350), a small allowance for supplies (\$100), and indirect costs for administering the program (\$9,430).

Total expenditures for the continuing maintenance and development of L2 (\$85,066) include a portion of the Applications and Web Developer's time spent on the project (\$10,700) as well as a portion of the Application Developer's time (\$6,960). Additional expenditures include maintenance and development to be provided by the vendor that built L2 (\$59,673) and indirect costs for administering the project (\$7,733).

Capital Outlays

Expenditures of \$913,577 are budgeted \$214,577 above the FY2026 budget.

RAILS had a building assessment performed for the Burr Ridge facility in FY2025. These upcoming maintenance projects were incorporated into the FY2026 budget, and the following amounts are being carried forward to the FY2027 budget:

- Chiller replacement at a cost of \$200,000
- Server room reconfiguration at a cost of \$10,000

In addition to these items for Burr Ridge, a provision of \$12,000 is also included to replace the well-worn carpet in the East Peoria facility.

The FY2027 budget also includes eleven replacement vehicles for delivery at a total cost of \$691,577. With these planned purchases, we are continuing to remain on a regular replacement schedule for our fleet.

Conclusion

General Fund revenues of \$17,179,528 are budgeted to increase \$150,373 from the FY2026 budget, primarily due to increases in reimbursements partially offset by decreases in fees for services and materials and investment income.

Budgeted General Fund expenditures of \$17,476,994 are \$560,951 above the FY2026 budgeted amounts. Higher than prior year's expenditures are budgeted in contractual services; vehicle expenses; library materials; and buildings and grounds. Budgeted expenditures decreased overall in nearly all other categories, with the largest decreases in personnel; supplies, postage, and printing; professional services; telephone and telecom expenses; and travel and continuing education.

For the General Fund, we are budgeting total estimated expenditures exceeding estimated revenues by \$297,466. We are also budgeting \$913,577 of expenditures from the Capital Projects Fund, which has no budgeted revenues.

The budget and operational plan are based on level APC funding of \$11,871,714, but we are mindful that the effects of inflation have caused sustained increased costs, resulting in a deficit budget for FY2027. We are requesting additional funding of \$103,735 to support the world language cataloging services and additional funding of \$85,066 to support the continued maintenance and development of L2. RAILS was previously awarded a grant from the Cook County Digital Equity Fund in the amount of \$850,000. We anticipate that \$668,937 of the work for this grant will be completed during FY2027. The budget we are presenting includes the services that RAILS believes we should be providing for our members.

This is both a forward-looking and thoughtful budget that will enable RAILS to work toward meeting the goals in its strategic plan and the activities identified by the Illinois State Library.

RAILS FY 2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.0 System Operational Plan

The Reaching Across Illinois Library System's (RAILS) operational plan for FY 2027 is rooted in the assumption that all libraries will continue to benefit from our collective strength.

When we say “thriving libraries are essential to all who learn, live, or work in Illinois,” we mean that libraries find meaningful connections to people’s lives. The primary way that we can accomplish this is by making libraries more connected to their communities.

In the plan below, you will find many examples of RAILS staff going above and beyond to bring libraries together. Some notable examples:

- Finding new ways to expand usage and integrate libraries into The Palace Project program after the transition from Baker & Taylor’s Boundless product
- The continuation of a partnership with Cook County that will bring \$850k to public libraries for digital equity
- Working directly with members to expand deals & discount offerings
- Growing the Find More Illinois program which makes interlibrary loan faster and easier
- Creating new advocacy efforts to help libraries tell their story
- Continuing to build new ways for libraries to learn and grow as leaders
- Expanding libraries’ comfort with data and providing leadership around data storytelling

Member libraries require us to lead regional coordination and facilitate collaboration. We drive progress by bringing members together, while ensuring our work stays aligned with their local priorities through consistent feedback.

One important note about FY2027: we are currently under way with a strategic plan revision. Although we will likely keep the same strategic goals in place, we will be seeking member input into new objectives. Our goal is to have a new plan approved by the RAILS Board in November 2026 for calendar years 2027-2029.

With a new plan in place and the momentum we already have, we are confident that RAILS will continue to help libraries to thrive.

Strategic Plan Goal One: *RAILS provides leadership in ensuring sustainable, equitable resource sharing for all member libraries.*

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
Enhance the sharing of knowledge and best practices through member networking and	Plan/schedule virtual and in-person networking opportunities for staff at all levels at all sizes and types of libraries (academic, public, school, and specialized) to share best practices on a variety of topics.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
communications between all types of libraries.	Work with statewide partners, including the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries (IACRL), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), Illinois Library Association (ILA), Association for Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Midwest Chapter and others to plan networking opportunities for staff at different levels from different types of libraries and for public library trustees. Publicize existing RAILS networking groups and the benefits of belonging to a networking group to all levels of staff at all types and sizes of libraries. Assist in the formation of new RAILS networking groups as needed. Continue to build and strengthen relationships and engagement with RAILS networking groups. Attend networking group meetings as appropriate to share the latest RAILS news and gather feedback on RAILS programs/services. Continue to offer to academic & school mixer program to encourage cross-library collaboration. Continue with plans to offer member groups the opportunity to meet in person at RAILS service centers as possible. Encourage use of RAILS mailing lists, including lists geared toward different library types and sizes, and staff at all levels. Establish new mailing lists as needed. Sunset lists that aren't being used.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)
Leverage economies of scale to provide greater purchasing power for member libraries so they can offer more resources to their users than libraries would be able to afford on their own.	Continue to expand the RAILS discount and group purchase program by offering new deals for member libraries of all sizes and types as possible. Target publicity and continue to develop new channels to help ensure that members know about specific, relevant offers available.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Gather input from members at all types and sizes of libraries on desired discounts/group purchases. Implement new offerings in response to this feedback as possible. Work with statewide partners – including those at the Secretary of State’s Office/Illinois State Library - to promote availability of the statewide electronic resources package. Continue to streamline and develop processes, including the comprehensive Consortia Manager platform, to manage RAILS group purchases and discounts. Develop standards and metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the Deals & Discounts program. Widely publicize member savings to demonstrate the program’s impact. Continue to negotiate, explore and build partnership approaches to maximize savings for members. Network with group purchasing managers in Illinois and nationwide to share knowledge, explore new opportunities and develop best practices. Continue to engage and inform members about deals & discounts through new email lists created specifically for staff from libraries that handle purchasing. Continue to work with member advisory groups to explore, assess and inform potential new deals & discounts Online High School Programs Continue to subsidize the management of the COHS and Gale: Excel Adult High School platforms to enable libraries to offer adult learners accredited high school diplomas and career certificates.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 5) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) Applies to entire section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Explore additional ways to expand and promote the COHS and Gale: Excel Adult High School programs, including: - Targeting libraries not yet participating in the program with large populations of adults who have not received a high school diploma - Targeting youth services library staff to help them promote the program to young parents without a high school diploma	
RAILS will continue to seek greater efficiencies, innovations, and enhancements to delivery services.	Work with RAILS members of all sizes and types to determine the most appropriate delivery method to meet their needs. Purchase 11 additional delivery vehicles to replace the aging fleet. Consult with members on delivery issues/concerns on an ongoing basis. Widely promote the use of the delivery help desk. Promote the need for RAILS members to complete quarterly delivery volume counts. Consult with libraries individually as needed. Add new vehicle trackers to delivery trucks to help monitor vehicles. Continue discussions with RAILS Consortia Committee about finding new ways to utilize data to get an accurate count for delivery. Develop strategies to improve and achieve total compliance with quarterly delivery counts to get more accurate information on delivery volume. Examine count data to determine potential changes to existing delivery routes and best practices. Continue to explore additional opportunities to automate delivery processes to streamline services and improve efficiency. Continue providing high-quality statewide delivery services to CARLI (Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Illinois) members via ILDS (Illinois Library Delivery Service).	23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 1), 2), & 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 5) H) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 5) H) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 5) H) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 5) H) 23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue working with GeoMARC (formerly Laboratory for Applied Spatial Analysis) on potential future improvements to RAILS delivery service, including delivery route efficiencies.	23 ILAC 3030.215 e) 1)
Work collaboratively with members, the Illinois Heartland Library System, and the Illinois State Library to identify and support appropriate and affordable shared catalog solutions and expand resource sharing to all libraries and residents.	General	
	Work with the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee to ensure sustainable, equitable resource sharing to help meet the first goal of the RAILS strategic plan. Promote/encourage the use of Find More Illinois statewide to help achieve this goal.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Collaborate with the Illinois State Library (ISL), IHLS, Chicago Public Library System (CPLS), AISLE, CARLI, IACRL, ILA, SLA Illinois, and other stakeholders to expand resource sharing in Illinois.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Collaborate with and support the work of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC).	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3)
	Continue to review the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan to reflect new legislation and updated areas of focus.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 3
	Promote/Support LLSAP Membership	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3)
	Continue to support six LLSAPs (CCS, Pinnacle, PrairieCat, Rock River Library Consortium, RSA, and SWAN) financially via the LLSAP Support Grant, as well as offering the use of RAILS meeting spaces and other services. Continue to maintain open lines of communication and leverage organizational partnerships with LLSAPs to collectively enhance services to libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1)
	Continue to offer the Catalog Membership Grant to fund one-time costs for libraries wishing to join an LLSAP, with ongoing evaluation and adjustment of the grant process framework to maximize support to nonautomated libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1)
	Promote the value of consortium membership to all types and sizes of RAILS libraries via RAILS communication tools, committee work, and member encounters.	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue to work with RAILS Consortia Committee to investigate and recommend ways to improve and grow consortial services in Illinois. Expand and Promote Find More Illinois (FMI) Recruit libraries to join FMI. Target promotions at libraries that would grow and enhance resources available through FMI. Continue to promote the growth of FMI, including developing new recruitment strategies. Continue onboarding CCS libraries into the FMI program. Continue expanding the Academic Library Lender Only Pilot Program. Enhance the FMI program with add-on services as appropriate. Implement operational efficiencies as the program grows. Provide training, consulting, and technical support to FMI libraries. Work with out-of-state library serving organizations to expand FMI. Evaluate and revise the FMI participation fee structure to ensure ongoing value to members of all types and sizes. Promote FMI through new branding and materials to help member libraries market the service. Create and implement new FMI dashboard to help member libraries gather and analyze data. Establish a FMI user group and/or committee working group to incorporate member feedback to assist with providing insights into recruitment,	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 8) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 9) All apply to FMI section 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 9) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) g) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	program enhancements, and best practices for participants. Continue in communication with the Systems (CPLS and IHLS) about the benefits of participation in FMI. Support High-Quality Cataloging Continue to develop, update, and deliver training courses and presentations on cataloging, classification, and metadata topics to RAILS members via Zoom webinars, Niche Academy, and the Moodle platform. Work with IHLS, SHARE, and the Cataloging Maintenance Center to cross-promote cataloging training and ensure complementary offerings and schedules. Continue support and consulting in cataloging-related activities for eRead Illinois and Find More Illinois. Continue creating and maintaining cataloging guidance for members, including the Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging and Cataloging Staff Competencies documents. Collaborate with IHLS and the iCamp committee to coordinate and manage the mentorship program, expanding participation and enhancing program resources. Implement quarterly feedback surveys to continuously improve the support provided to mentors and mentees. Continue to explore participation in the Library of Congress' Program for Cooperative Cataloging and its Name Authority Cooperative Program for South Asian materials. Continue offering World Language Cataloging Service as detailed below and evaluate its impact to identify opportunities for improvement. eRead Illinois The Palace Project	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 5) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 6) Both apply to entire section 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Recruit RAILS libraries and IHLS non-SHARE libraries to join eRead Illinois. Support the training and marketing needs of eRead Illinois participants. Publicize The Palace Project as being free (courtesy of RAILS) to all Illinois libraries. Provide current information on The Palace Project for IHLS to share with their member libraries. Continue to onboard K-12 libraries to The Palace Project. Develop onboarding procedures and recruit non-eRead Illinois libraries into The Palace Project app. Continue to work with vendor to improve The Palace Project platform/app in response to member feedback. Evaluate eRead Illinois content to ensure that it continues to meet member needs. (See also EDI section below.) Regularly seek input from eRead participants on the collection and implement member suggestions as possible. Network with e-content managers in Illinois and nationwide to share and stay abreast of new developments and initiatives. Inkie.org Library Continue to develop and promote the Inkie.org Library program to support self-publishing, Illinois authors, and Illinois e-content statewide. Continue offering group purchase pricing on BiblioBoard products for self-published authors. Publicize Inkie.org Library resources as being free (courtesy of RAILS) to all Illinois libraries and to all	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 4) All apply to entire eRead section 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 6) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Illinois residents, including those not served by a public library.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b)1)
	Provide current information on available resources for IHLS to share with their member libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Explore More Illinois (EMI)	
	Continue to grow/expand the number and types of participating attractions. Collaborate with CPLS and IHLS to recruit attractions.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)
	Collaborate with CPLS and IHLS to publicize EMI to all Illinois public libraries and to encourage them to participate.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Network with ePass (EMI's software) administrators nationwide to explore new opportunities and solutions and to share best practices.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Other E-Resources Initiatives	
	Continue to develop RAILS Vendor Privacy Policies and VPAT (Vendor Product Accessibility Template) web pages with links to policies and VPATs for third-party vendors providing e-resources to public libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)
	Compile and share information to support member libraries in meeting e-resource accessibility standards.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) and 2)
	Continue to stay abreast of statewide and national E-Content initiatives.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Support statewide efforts and legislation related to favorable pricing for e-books and e-audiobooks for libraries.	
	Partner with other library organizations nationwide to continue dialogue with publishers on need for better e-book access/pricing for libraries/consortia.	

Strategic Plan Goal Two: *RAILS models best practices in equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion.*

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
RAILS will provide leadership in developing and providing resources that will support member libraries' efforts to provide equitable, diverse, and inclusive services.	Continue offering regular EDI training opportunities for all RAILS members. Collaborate with other Illinois stakeholders offering EDI-related continuing education (CE) to avoid duplication of effort.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue offering World Language Cataloging Services grant program statewide. - Continue seeking grant funds from ISL to fund the statewide program. - Continue publicizing the program to libraries of all types statewide. - Continue to promote the benefits of IHLS' Cataloging Maintenance Center program and how that program differs from and works in conjunction with the RAILS program.	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 5)
	Continue to develop/promote an eRead Illinois collection and Inkie.org Library resources that address the needs of an ethnically and culturally diverse audience. Regularly evaluate the collection using industry respected tools to identify potential gaps.	23 ILAC 3030.215 c) 3)
	Recruit attractions for Explore More Illinois of interest to an ethnically and culturally diverse audience.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Promote the online high school programs (see above) as addressing the needs of a culturally, economically, and ethnically diverse audience.	
	Provide/promote opportunities for members from all types and sizes of libraries to share best practices and collaborate on EDI-related challenges through the RAILS EDI mailing list, EDI Pulse Page, and other activities.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)
	Promote and provide administrative support as applicable for RAILS EDI-related networking groups.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Include EDI elements in RAILS grants for members (CE Event grants, My Library Is... grants, etc.) when possible, to encourage applicants to provide equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible programs/services and to publicize these offerings to their communities.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
Examine all aspects of RAILS policies, procedures, and core services through an equity lens and make needed improvements.	Continue to grow and develop RAILS' external and internal EDI strategies and initiatives. Continue conducting a thorough analysis/evaluation of RAILS Employee Handbook to ensure that all language and policies meet our EDI goals. Continue the work of the RAILS Climate Team to identify and implement internal best practices and initiatives for RAILS staff. Continue holding regular EDI training sessions for RAILS staff. Continue EDI training specifically for Delivery staff that can be recorded and incorporated into onboarding for new staff. Develop EDI training specifically for RAILS hiring managers that focuses on best practices in recruitment, evaluation, and staff retention.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
Work with RAILS members of all types to identify and implement ways to diversify library governing bodies and staff to increase representation and better reflect the communities they serve.	Continue to work with the RAILS Board Nominating Committee and others to attract diverse candidates to run for the RAILS Board. Promote RAILS' goal to develop a more diverse board in election publicity. Provide training/consulting/guidance for member libraries of all types to help them develop a more diverse and representative board. Provide opportunities for libraries of all types to share best practices and strategies they have used to diversify their governing boards, including via the RAILS EDI Pulse Page and email list. Provide training for RAILS members to help them diversify their hiring and recruitment practices.	23 ILAC 3030.250 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Provide opportunities/tools for members to share strategies they have used to recruit a more diverse staff, including the EDI mailing list and the EDI Pulse Page.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1

Strategic Plan Goal Three: *RAILS assists member libraries in preparing for the future.*

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
Leveraging RAILS' power and influence in the Illinois library community, work collaboratively for additional funding for all types of libraries to ensure that libraries have the staffing, technology, and infrastructure needed to offer essential and cutting-edge services to their communities	Provide CE/consulting/tools to help libraries with different aspects of fundraising, including how to advocate for additional/continued funding from library administrators, funders, etc.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue to schedule regular meetings with AISLE, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), IHLS, ILA, and ISL to discuss collaborative projects to help school libraries deal with funding challenges, understand legal/policy changes, and create new resources to help address issues.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Participate in a wide variety of efforts to help advocate for continued/increased funding for all types of libraries, including: • ILA Legislative Meetups • Responding to American Library Association (ALA) calls to actions • Continuing to work with the ILA Public Policy and Advocacy Committees to discuss legislation of importance to libraries	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Keep RAILS libraries informed of important legislative developments affecting libraries.	
	Publicize opportunities for staff from member libraries to advocate for continued/increased funding for libraries as appropriate, including: • Encouraging members to attend ILA Legislative Meetups • Encouraging members to respond to ALA calls to action • Encouraging members to contact their elected officials as appropriate and	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)
		23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	providing talking points on specific issues and programs as possible Support AISLE's statewide efforts to increase the number of certified school librarians through the development of advocacy tools and continued development of the SLATE project. Continue to advocate for a trustee training requirement for public library boards. Assist with libraries in disaster preparedness and addressing crisis situations. Work with the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee to educate the board about issues affecting RAILS and libraries that may require their advocacy efforts locally, regionally, or nationally.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
Help member libraries of all types and sizes demonstrate their value to their different stakeholders.	Advocacy Efforts Bring the My Library Is... campaign to a close. Move My Library Is... blog materials to a new RAILS-branded blog. Move other My Library Is... materials to new advocacy section of RAILS website. Continue to encourage staff at all levels from all types and sizes of libraries to contribute posts to the RAILS blog to share best practices in telling the library story. Continue offering grants to help libraries with limited resources to tell their stories more effectively. Continue to work with IHLS to further expand and publicize advocacy efforts to staff at all types and sizes of libraries statewide.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) B) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue to work with AISLE, CARLI, IACRL, ILA, SLA-IL, and other stakeholders on common goals/ activities to avoid duplication of efforts. Engage with marketing/communications staff from member libraries to ensure that they have access to advocacy materials. (See additional campaign activities in previous section.)	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
Professional development and member engagement efforts are future-focused, crossing library types and specific to individual library type needs.	Provide CE/consulting on general resource sharing issues identified in the administrative rules, including interlibrary loan, the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code, nonresident services, the RAILS Resource Sharing Policy, etc. Provide CE/consulting on library advocacy, management and practice, and other core service areas identified in the administrative rules. Provide CE/consulting to help libraries meet per capita grant requirements and standards for their type of library. Offer CE/consulting assistance and other resources to help libraries of all types and sizes to develop/maintain a current strategic plan. Identify/monitor issues, trends, and challenges affecting libraries of all types and sizes and provide CE/consulting to help libraries respond to these issues and challenges. Continue to develop Library Pulse pages on the RAILS website to help members respond to current issues, challenges, and trends. Continue to gather member input on CE needs from all sizes and types of RAILS libraries and implement training to meet those needs. Continue to partner with AISLE to identify training needs for school library staff and to	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	offer joint CE opportunities based on that feedback.	
	Continue offering PHD credits for school librarians using PD+.	
	Work with statewide stakeholders to plan and offer Directors University, the statewide training initiative for new public library directors. Publicize widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Work with statewide stakeholders to plan and offer Directors University Advanced to offer intermediate-level training for library directors. Publicize widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Work with statewide stakeholders to plan and offer Directors University on Demand to offer online, asynchronous training for library directors. Publicize widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue to work with statewide stakeholders to evaluate feedback from the first RAILS Catalyst cohort, to refine and plan for the second iteration of this leadership development program.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue partnership with United for Libraries to provide statewide, online, on-demand trustee training. Publicize training widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue to transition library staff to using RAILS Academy for trainings and webinars. Consistently and routinely update RAILS Academy to offer a wide variety of asynchronous, on-demand training in core library functions for staff at all levels.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue to support the iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal.	
	Consult with/attend library board meetings as appropriate to help boards meet legal requirements and to develop leadership skills.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue partnership with HR Source to provide CE and discounted membership. Publicize widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
	Continue partnership with Ancel Glink to offer statewide FOIA/OMA hotline. Publicize widely.	23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)

Strategic Plan Goal Four: *RAILS leads alongside member libraries to develop and strengthen the Illinois library community and expand services to all.*

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
RAILS will continue to strengthen collaborative relationships with partner library organizations, including the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, the Chicago Public Library, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, the Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries, the Illinois Heartland Library System, the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois State Library, and the Special Libraries Association – Illinois Community.	Service Standards Continue conversations with ISL, IHLS, ILA and other partners to explore possibility of revising system membership standards to help libraries of all types provide better service to their communities. L2 (Library Directory and Learning Calendar) Ask ISL to continue to provide continued grant funding to support L2. Continue to provide statewide leadership for L2: • Host, maintain, and develop additional features. • Provide ongoing user support and documentation to library staff, networking groups, and sponsor organizations (LLSAPs, ISL, library systems). • Ensure compliance with web accessibility requirements and implement enhancements as needed • Update and maintain externally sourced directory data. • Provide technical support, ongoing reporting, and any necessary development for annual library certification • Facilitate the statewide advisory group (L2G2) and participation in the Intercept open-source community.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 4) A) Applies to entire L2 Section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue to contract with Aten Design Group for L2 support and development. Certification Work with ISL, IHLS, and other partners to improve and enhance the annual certification process. Work with RAILS members to ensure that they complete the certification process. Other Collaborative Initiatives RAILS Executive Director continues to serve on Illinois State Library Advisory Committee. Work with CPLS and IHLS to schedule meetings and other get-togethers for system staff: Schedule regular meetings to discuss statewide services and ideas for collaborating to promote those services. Continue to schedule regular meetings with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, ISL, CARLI and others as appropriate to discuss collaborative projects to benefit school libraries as referenced above. Collaborate with AISLE, IHLS, ILA, and ISL to plan Illinois School Library Workers Symposium, supporting individuals working in school libraries with no formal library education. Collaborate with AISLE, IHLS, CARLI, ILA, and others to continue volunteer regional response teams to help libraries facing materials challenges. Continue providing leadership and support to Illinois special libraries community, including the potential creation of an ILA special librarians forum. Continue regular meetings with the Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library to discuss collaboration possibilities.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 4) C) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 4) C) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Continue regular meetings with the Executive Director of CARLI to discuss collaboration possibilities.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Broadband & Digital Equity	
	Continue to engage and provide leadership in statewide efforts focused on broadband expansion, technology adoption, and digital equity issues, including continued service representing libraries on the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity's Broadband Advisory Council.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Continue to partner with Cook County Digital Equity to support suburban Cook County libraries' digital navigation services and projects. Ensure that materials and models are adaptable and reusable for non-Cook County libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Continue to update library staff on statewide projects including funding opportunities, legislative efforts, and ways for libraries to provide feedback on and participate in broadband and digital equity initiatives. Produce content which demonstrates the importance of the issue to libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Collaborate with Illinois Heartland Library System to facilitate RAILS member libraries' access to their laptop lending program.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Partner on grant initiatives, presentations, and other projects with library-related organizations to improve broadband and digital equity in the state of Illinois.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Continue to partner with the Digital Equity Action Research Lab at University of Illinois' iSchool to investigate libraries' capacity to provide digital inclusion services.	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1)
	Provide as-needed consultation and develop new offerings that support libraries' digital inclusion services, staff competencies, partnerships, and participation in E-Rate.	

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
RAILS will continually seek to understand member perceptions of inequities in system services to better support academic, school, and specialized libraries, as well as public libraries of all sizes.	Develop new targeted email communications for specific library types. Mail promotional pieces to libraries not receiving RAILS delivery as appropriate to ensure they are aware of the programs/services available to them. Continue to meet with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, and ISL to address the needs of school libraries as referenced above. Continue to work with other stakeholders statewide and beyond on school library data project. (See next section.) (See also Communications section below.)	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2)
Continuously evaluate RAILS programs and services to ensure that they are having an impact and are helping to create the best possible future for all member libraries	Continue to work with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, ISL, and other stakeholders statewide on the SLATE project including library staff, administrators, boards, and other about the importance of school libraries and the need to support and fund them. Continue to improve and expand the SLATE data dashboard through the following: • Census data collection project • Direct member feedback • Continued development of expanded features and functions Continue developing a roadmap for a centralized data hub to coordinate and manage data sources used to support RAILS' services to members and staff. Create documentation of requirements, maintenance, governance, and access to core data sources used by RAILS staff. Enhance and expand staff training on data literacy and proper data usage. Implement a data request ticket system to better track, triage, and support data projects, tasks, and	23 ILAC 3030.215 b) 1) 23 ILAC 3030.215 d) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2) 23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	collaborations across RAILS' departments and strategic initiatives.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue progress on RAILCAR, a data collection and analysis tool designed to supplement existing data related to LLSAPs and library automation. This tool is integrated into the processes for both the LLSAP Support and Catalog Membership Grants.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue to refine the RAILS Resource Sharing Map and add new features for member libraries.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue to develop content and plan for the release of a new data-related website connected to the main RAILS website.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue development of the <i>Anatomy of a Public Library</i> demographic profile project	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Work with Delivery to modernize route maps and analysis	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Support the Palace Project with various data analysis projects to assess performance and ordering trends	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Host the second Libraries Count: RAILS Data Conference event. This event will include hands-on data workshops to help libraries become more familiar with their data.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue to refine the Find More Illinois and Explore More Illinois data dashboards. Develop and maintain dashboards for other RAILS services and projects as appropriate.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)
	Continue to solicit member feedback via RAILS communication tools, surveys, and member encounters. Implement changes/additions to RAILS programs/services based on member input as appropriate. Ensure that we are getting feedback from libraries of all types and sizes in all geographic areas of the system.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 2)

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	(See other sections of this document for plans to gather and respond to member feedback on specific RAILS programs/services.)	
Collaborate with the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Heartland Library System, and other partners to develop a plan and timeline for achieving universal service.	Continue to work with the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee to find and implement solutions to challenges related to the unserved in Illinois.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5)
	Explore the role of community college libraries in meeting the needs of the unserved	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5)
	Review previous legislative attempts towards universal service and consider legislative proposals to PPC during FY27.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5)
	Continue to work with statewide partners to seek legislative support for statewide access to electronic resources for all Illinois residents, including the unserved.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5)
	Publicize requirement for library boards to vote annually on participation in the nonresident program and for members to update their participation information via L2. Publicize the names of participating/nonparticipating libraries and share with ISL per statutory requirements.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 4)
	Identify member libraries who have not updated their L2 non-resident info in over 18 months. Coordinate outreach to those libraries to receive updated information.	23 ILAC 3030.215 f) 5)

Other Administrative Activities

The following section details RAILS' planned FY 2024 activities to meet statutory priorities for Illinois library systems not included in the sections above.

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
Engage and communicate with members and potential members from all types of libraries throughout the RAILS area	Member Recruitment Engage with libraries of all types that express an interest in RAILS membership.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 4) b) Applies to entire section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
to ensure they are aware of system programs/ services of benefit to them and to better understand, anticipate, and meet their needs.	Visit potential members to ensure they meet membership criteria. Work with RAILS Board on new member recommendations for approval by ISL. General Member Communication/Engagement Promote available programs/services via RAILS communication tools and member visits, including: • RAILS website • Weekly <i>RAILS E-News</i> • Social media channels • Visiting as many members as possible, either virtually or in person, concentrating on libraries that RAILS has not visited or had any correspondence with in the past two years • Offering online site visits to any interested library to remind them of system benefits • Offering to attend a meeting of all RAILS networking groups as specified above • Scheduling regular member updates • Using available type of library mailing lists and lists for different levels of staff to communicate about specific programs/ services of interest • Offering “New Director Welcome” online discussions • Sending all new RAILS library directors a welcome communication to acquaint them with system programs/services • Continuing to feature “RAILS Minute” videos with the RAILS Executive Director highlighting the latest system news • Exhibiting at library conferences, including conferences for different types of libraries and different levels of staff • Presenting programs at library-related conferences as appropriate to promote RAILS programs/services Contract for continued support for new RAILS website, to include: • Custom development of Gutenberg editor	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) G) Applies to entire section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Miscellaneous design tweaks, feature development, and software and server updates Develop new in-house marketing plan to help prioritize marketing efforts. In collaboration with Resource Sharing team, develop new member benefit letter/ROI statement for member libraries. Continue to make improvements to the weekly <i>RAILS E-News</i>. Gather feedback from different levels of staff (including non-librarians) on how RAILS can communicate with them more effectively. Develop strategies to respond to this feedback.	
Engage and communicate with the RAILS Board of Directors to ensure that they are aware of RAILS programs and services, that they can serve as ambassadors for RAILS, and that their service on the board is as rewarding as possible.	Communicate regularly with the board through the RAILS board mailing list and other means. Ensure that the board is aware of RAILS' progress in meeting the goals and objectives of our new strategic plan. Keep board informed about important issues for RAILS and for libraries of all types. Provide talking points for communicating with members about RAILS programs/services. Plan/implement orientation session at Burr Ridge service center for all new RAILS Board members. Invite existing board members to attend for a refresher. Schedule board meetings in different parts of the RAILS area as possible so the board can learn about different areas of the system and meet members from different areas. Continue to promote and encourage diversity on the RAILS Board as referenced above. Support board conference/meeting attendance as appropriate.	23 ILAC 3030.250 Applies to entire section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Work with RAILS Board Policy Committee to establish schedule for regular review of RAILS policies.	
Recruit RAILS staff as needed to meet roles specified in administrative rules and to support strategic plan goals and objectives. Actively seek a diverse staff in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identify, and other factors.	Development of a new 2027-2029 strategic plan with expansive feedback from the RAILS membership. Include data driven evaluative tools for measuring success. Encourage/support professional development for staff. Continue to hold regular staff meetings to keep all staff informed of the latest RAILS developments and to help staff at different service centers engage with each other. Continue work of RAILS Employee Committees to develop collaborative activities for all staff. - Plan in-person staff in-service day in FY 2027. - Offer regular staff engagement activities at service centers throughout the year. Continue discussions with new staff who have worked at RAILS for at least 90 days to gather input on their onboarding and orientation experiences. Make changes to RAILS' onboarding process as appropriate in response to this feedback. Continue having pre-employment physical examinations for delivery staff. Update safety internal safety procedures and continue staff discussions about emergency preparedness. Continue to prioritize EDI-related staff activities and initiatives as referenced above.	23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 3) Applies to entire section
Maintain robust technology infrastructure		23 ILAC 3030.215 a) 5) Applies to entire section

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
needed to carry out all RAILS programs/services.	Replace aging climate control systems in Burr Ridge datacenter. Continue to improve security practices across wide area networks and IT systems. Complete keyless entry security upgrades for all RAILS Service centers. Continue to maintain and enhance the Delivery mobile app and associated local web app for data collection and analysis. Maintain iPads and provide user support for apps and equipment. Continue to maintain and enhance internal apps for HR and contract tracking. Support RAILS staff in ongoing identification and adoption of software tools in place to support their work as technology and needs evolve, including scheduling solutions, increased use of cloud-based file sharing and collaboration, security features, and others. Investigate assistive technology in RAILS meeting rooms to accommodate persons with hearing impairment. Continue to utilize and refine our project request process for staff to inform and request input on IT-related projects they are planning. Investigate a potential transition to a cloud hosting service for RAILS websites. Evaluate sites and begin implementation for those that are identified as good candidates. Investigate upgrades to the video conferencing equipment in the Deirdre Brennan Meeting Room to allow for smoother video tracking. Lead and support the continued investigation and implementation of AI tools and related procedures for RAILS staff use as appropriate.	

Objectives	Planned Activities	System Standard
	Update and expand disaster recovery plan and staff cybersecurity training.	

3.1 Unmet Core Services

To the best of our knowledge, RAILS currently meets all core service standards.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.2 Statewide Service Collaboration

RAILS collaborates with other systems and statewide organizations to provide the following statewide services:

- RAILS collaborates with the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) to provide statewide delivery service through ILDS.
- RAILS developed, manages, and provides technical support for the statewide delivery ticketing system.
- RAILS works with IHLS and ISL to provide greater efficiencies, service improvements, and cost savings for statewide delivery service.
- RAILS participates in quarterly, statewide delivery meetings with IHLS, CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois), and the Illinois State Library (ISL) to provide updates on each of our individual delivery operations and share best practices.
- RAILS extends continuing education offerings to other library systems when possible, including the opportunity to view many of RAILS' webinars in the CE Archives on the RAILS website.
- RAILS works with other statewide partners to plan Directors University and Directors University 2.0.
- RAILS partners with the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) to identify training needs for school library staff and to offer joint CE opportunities based on that feedback.
- RAILS is collaborating with AISLE, IHLS, the Illinois Library Association (ILA), and ISL to offer the Illinois School Library Workers Symposium, a full-day online event designed to provide training for school library workers who have not otherwise had library education experiences.
- RAILS collaborates with other Illinois stakeholders offering EDI-related continuing education to avoid duplication of effort.
- RAILS continues to work with AISLE, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), IHLS, ILA, ISL, and other stakeholders statewide on the School Library Advocacy Through Education (SLATE) data project, with the goal of educating school library staff, administrators, boards, and others about the importance of school libraries and the need to support and fund them.
- RAILS is collaborating with AISLE, IHLS, ILA, and others to support the Unite Against Book Bans in Illinois regional response teams to help libraries facing materials challenges.
- RAILS provides a statewide FOIA/OMA hotline.
- RAILS offers training and supports Illinois public library trustee development by offering access to United for Libraries' *Short Takes for Trustees* statewide.
- RAILS provides leadership and direction for the L2 statewide Library Directory & Learning Calendar, including:
 - Hosting, maintaining, and developing additional features for L2.
 - Providing ongoing user help and support to library staff, networking groups, and sponsor organizations (LLSAPs, ISL, library systems).
 - Providing technical support, ongoing reporting, and any necessary development for annual library certification.
 - Facilitating the statewide advisory group (L2G2).
- RAILS works with IHLS and ISL to ensure that the annual certification process runs smoothly via L2. RAILS staff provide ongoing L2 support for all system libraries during the certification process as stated above.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.2 Statewide Service Collaboration

- RAILS welcomes and encourages IHLS participation in Find More Illinois (FMI). RAILS also works with CARLI to add I-Share members who wish to participate in FMI.
- RAILS invites IHLS to participate in RAILS projects/committees as possible, including the Resource Sharing Committee and the Consortia Committee.
- RAILS offers and promotes the World Language Cataloging Service to libraries statewide.
- RAILS regularly promotes services and training opportunities available through the IHLS Cataloging Maintenance Center (CMC).
- In partnership with IHLS, RAILS offers a cataloging mentorship program statewide.
- RAILS makes the eRead Illinois shared collection available to IHLS members who do not participate in the SHARE catalog and supports their training and marketing needs.
- Some vendor discounts and group purchases coordinated by RAILS are also open to IHLS members.
- RAILS extends participation in the online school programs to IHLS libraries. RAILS provides support and marketing, and subsidizes platform costs and negotiates scholarship pricing for the entire state.
- All Illinois public libraries and community college libraries are welcome to participate in RAILS' Explore More Illinois cultural pass program.
- RAILS will work with other statewide partners to promote the availability of the statewide electronic resources package that would be available without cost to all Illinois libraries and residents.
- RAILS initiated and continues to schedule and participate in regular meetings with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, and ISL staff to discuss collaborative efforts to support Illinois school libraries.
- RAILS will continue to work with statewide partners to identify obstacles to libraries adopting the extended Cards for Kids Act legislation and to encourage all libraries to extend service to all children in unserved areas.
- RAILS will continue to engage in statewide efforts focused on broadband expansion, technology adoption, and digital equity issues, including continued service by a RAILS staff member on the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity's Broadband Advisory Council and collaboration with IHLS on shared priorities.
- RAILS will continue to work with the Cook County Office of Digital Equity on projects related to broadband and digital equity. The results of this work can have a statewide impact.
- RAILS encourages staff from member libraries to support statewide advocacy initiatives, including attending ILA Legislative Meetups and responding to ALA calls to action.
- RAILS will continue promoting and supporting participation in the iLEAD Trustee Training portal led by IHLS.
- RAILS works with statewide partners, including AISLE, the Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries (IACRL), IHLS, ILA, and others to plan/develop networking opportunities for staff at different levels from different types of libraries and for public library trustees.
- Staff members from CPLS and IHLS libraries can subscribe to and participate in many of the email discussion lists hosted by RAILS.
- RAILS and IHLS collaborate on the *Can't Shelve This* podcast which helps support school libraries in Illinois.

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3.2 Statewide Service Collaboration

- RAILS schedules regular meetings with the Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library to discuss collaboration possibilities.
- RAILS attends regular meetings between the Executive Directors of CARLI, IHLS, and RAILS to discuss opportunities for collaboration and support.
- RAILS collaborates with CPLS and IHLS to schedule collaboration opportunities for system staff, including regular meetings to discuss statewide services and ideas for promoting those services
- RAILS provides leadership and support special librarians through the RAILS Director of Marketing & Communications publicizing activities and events and looking for opportunities for collaborations. RAILS' Director of Marketing & Communications will continue to participate in the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) for updates.
- RAILS will work with ISL, IHLS, and other partners to revive conversations about revising system membership standards to help all types of libraries provide better service to their communities.
- IHLS and CPLS members are welcome to post items to the Free/For Sale/Wanted page on the RAILS website.
- IHLS and CPLS members are welcome to post available job listings on the RAILS Jobs Board.
- IHLS libraries have access to the Library Policies/Plans/Procedures and Job Descriptions repositories on the RAILS website.
- RAILS IT staff regularly collaborate with IHLS staff to share information and experiences re: common initiatives.
- The RAILS Executive Director serves on the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee.
- The RAILS Executive Director serves as an ex officio member of ILA's Public Policy Committee.
- The RAILS Executive Director serves on the Dominican University SOIS Advisory committee
- RAILS continues to participate as a partner in the CARLI Open Textbooks grant.
- RAILS partners on additional grant initiatives with library-related organizations to improve and expand library service in Illinois and to help demonstrate the value of all types of libraries.
- A RAILS staff member serves as Treasurer of both the LIMRiCC and LIRA cooperatives, which provide insurance to libraries statewide.
- RAILS collaborates with and supports the work of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC).
- RAILS provides ongoing support for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and the Illinois Digital Heritage Hub.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.3 Operational Plan – Proposed Fees for Service

Fee Description	Who Fee Impacts	Amount of Fee	Estimate of Annual Revenue Generated
Libraries participating in the eRead Illinois program pay an annual fee. The fees are to assist with adding content and to make the project sustainable.	Libraries participating in eRead Illinois	Variable based on library type and several factors. During FY2027, School library fees will be waived. Academic libraries are tiered by total enrollment with fees ranging from \$400 - \$2,000, Public libraries are tiered by operating expenditures with fees ranging from \$275 - \$12,000, School libraries are tiered by enrollment and number of buildings with fees ranging from \$175 - \$425 per building, and Special libraries are tiered by population served with fees ranging from \$300 - \$500	\$340,000

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.3 Operational Plan – Proposed Fees for Service

Fee Description	Who Fee Impacts	Amount of Fee	Estimate of Annual Revenue Generated
Contract fees from CARLI for the provision of statewide delivery services to academic institutions. FY2027 fees for current stops by agreement are \$761,662 and a 4% projected fuel surcharge of \$30,466. In addition, \$16,698 a year to members for branch delivery.	Participating academic institutions and five RAILS members for branch delivery	Contractual amounts	\$808,826

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.3 Operational Plan – Proposed Fees for Service

Fee Description	Who Fee Impacts	Amount of Fee	Estimate of Annual Revenue Generated
Libraries participating in the Find More Illinois program pay an annual fee. The fees are to make the project sustainable.	Libraries participating in Find More Illinois	Variable based on library collection budgets with fees ranging from \$150 - \$8,500	\$160,000

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.3 Operational Plan – Proposed Fees for Service

Fee Description	Who Fee Impacts	Amount of Fee	Estimate of Annual Revenue Generated
Human resource consulting for qualifying libraries.	Available to public libraries with operating budgets less than \$1,000,000. This service is offered to public libraries, as other types of libraries typically have access to their organization's HR department.	HR Source charges RAILS \$630 per library per year. To extend the service to as many libraries as possible and to ensure that libraries that sign up for the service are motivated to use it, RAILS charges for this based on a sliding scale, with the smallest libraries getting the highest percentage of financial support from RAILS. Libraries with an operating budget of \$50,000 or less are charged \$55/year, budgets of \$50,001–\$100,000 are charged \$140/year, budgets of \$100,001–\$250,000 are charged \$220/year, budgets of \$250,001–\$500,000 are charged \$300/year, budgets of \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 are charged \$400/year	\$23,250

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

3.3 Operational Plan – Proposed Fees for Service

Fee Description	Who Fee Impacts	Amount of Fee	Estimate of Annual Revenue Generated
Continuing education session lunch fees for attendees.	Employers of attendees	\$20 per attendee	\$840

RAILS FY2027 Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.1.a: List of Position Titles Including the Budget Line Item, Salary, and Fund Type

Position/Title	Budget Line Item	F/T or P/T	Annualized Salary	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Proprietary Fund	Fiduciary Fund
Executive Director	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 206,177.00	X				
Associate Executive Director	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 147,497.00	X				
Executive Assistant	Support Services	F/T	\$ 77,448.00	X				
Administrative Assistant	Support Services	F/T	\$ 47,802.00	X				
Administrative Assistant	Support Services	F/T	\$ 53,001.00	X				
Special Projects Coordinator	Support Services	F/T	\$ 54,411.00	X				
Special Projects Coordinator	Support Services	F/T	\$ 60,255.00	X				
Staff Accountant	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 79,366.00	X				
Staff Accountant	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 74,945.00	X				
Finance Director	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 110,486.00	X				

Accounting Specialist	Support Services	F/T	\$ 53,466.00	X				
Accounting Specialist	Support Services	F/T	\$ 50,012.00	X				
Cataloging Services Manager	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 85,512.00	X				
Director of Technology Services	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 131,823.00	X				
Cataloging Services Assistant (Temp)	Library Professionals	P/T	\$ 27,089.00		X			
Application Developer	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 91,972.00	X				
Network Administrator	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 84,930.00	X				
System Administrator	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 82,788.00	X				
Information Technology Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 118,726.00	X				
Senior Support Specialist	Support Services	F/T	\$ 59,865.00	X				
Human Resources Director	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 109,813.00	X				
Human Resources Generalist	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 62,001.00	X				

Human Resources Assistant	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 51,639.00	X				
Special Projects Librarian	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 66,950.00	X				
E-Content Specialist	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 82,905.00	X				
Director of Library Resources & Programs	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 117,778.00	X				
Consortial Services Supervisor	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 80,709.00	X				
Technology Special Projects Coordinator	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 90,441.00	X				
Library Resource Supervisor	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 75,412.00	X				
Library Resource Specialist	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 61,800.00	X				
Member Engagement Specialist	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 76,130.00	X				
Application and Web Developer	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 106,142.00	X				
Director, Marketing & Communications	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 115,850.00	X				
Marketing and Public Relations Specialist	Other Professional	F/T	\$ 73,605.00	X				

Digital Marketing and Communications Specialist	Other Professional	F/T	\$ 69,756.00	X				
Director of Consulting and Continuing Education	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 103,714.00	X				
Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist	Library Professionals	F/T	\$ 73,383.00	X				
Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist	Other Professional	F/T	\$ 72,036.00	X				
Data Analyst	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 73,261.00	X				
Data Analysis Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 94,562.00	X				
Delivery and Facilities Director	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 125,672.00	X				
Delivery Facility Associate	Support Services	F/T	\$ 56,368.00	X				
Delivery Services Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 82,703.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 53,838.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	P/T	\$ 20,487.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 42,681.00	X				

Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 36,656.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 36,656.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 36,656.00	X				
Delivery Services Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 74,867.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 40,769.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 46,768.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 46,768.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	P/T	\$ 29,230.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 46,768.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 34,145.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 40,170.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 36,421.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 36,575.00	X				
Delivery Services Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 74,867.00	X				

Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 53,774.00	X				
Delivery Services Manager	Other Professionals	F/T	\$ 89,358.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 34,145.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				

Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 38,222.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 41,777.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 44,196.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 41,777.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 34,145.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 42,058.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	P/T	\$ 40,923.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 40,170.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 46,375.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				

Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 43,846.00	X				
Driver	Support Services	F/T	\$ 35,510.00	X				
Driver/Floater	Support Services	F/T	\$ 40,170.00	X				
Sorter	Support Services	F/T	\$ 44,196.00	X				
Total			\$ 5,814,879.00					

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4. Exhibit 1.b: List of Vacancies to be filled during the budget year

Position/Title	Budget Line Item	F/T or P/T	Annualized Salary Range	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Proprietary Fund	Fiduciary Fund
No Positions to be Filled								
Total								

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4. Exhibit 4.2 Planned Motor Vehicle Purchases during FY2027

Vehicle to be Added	Replacing which Vehicle (if applicable)	Type of Use	Budgeted Cost
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$55,577.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Van	TBD	Delivery	\$59,000.00
Delivery Truck	TBD	Delivery	\$82,000.00
Delivery Truck	TBD	Delivery	\$82,000.00

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Exhibit 4.3: Summary of Budget Year Estimated Out-of-State Travel Information

Reason for Travel (Conference Name) and Destination	Anticipated Number of Travelers	Month of Travel and Duration	Budgeted Cost
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA	12	June 2027, 5 days	\$22,257
ALA Core Forum, Louisville, KY	2	November 2025, 3 days	\$2,550
ALA National Library Legislative Day, Washington D.C.	2	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$3,152
Association for Information Science and Technology ISS/SLC 2027, Location TBD	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,350
ARSL Conference, Montgomery, AL	1	September 2026, 4 days	\$1,325
Charleston Library Conference, Charleston, SC	2	November 2026, 5 days	\$6,400
Computers in Libraries, Arlington, VA	2	March 2027, 3 days	\$4,100
COSLA CE Forum, Location TBD	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,325
Data Conference, Location TBD	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,550
Defcon, Las Vegas, NV	2	August 2026, 4 days	\$3,700
ICOLC Conference, Location TBD	3	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$4,878
Joint Council of Librarians of Color 2026, Spokane, WA	1	October 2026, 5 days	\$1,387
Library Marketing and Communications Conference, St. Louis, MO	1	November 2026, 2 days	\$985
National Digital Inclusion Alliance Net Inclusion 2027, Columbus, OH	1	February 2027, 3 days	\$1,550
Social Fresh Conference, Location TBD	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,300
Tableau Software Conference, San Diego, CA	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,685
Urban Libraries Council CEO Roundtable, Location TBD	1	Month TBD, Duration TBD	\$1,430
	Total		\$60,924

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4 Exhibit 4.4 All Agency Contracts Including Rental Agreements

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Abila P.O. Box 737451 Dallas, TX 75373-7451	Information Service Costs	Accounting Software – Burr Ridge location	3/31/2026 - 3/30/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$8,431.86 annual license and maintenance fee	
ADT Security Service P.O. Box 371878 Pittsburgh, PA 15250	Other Buildings and Grounds	Alarm Service – Rockford location	5/7/2024 – 5/6/2027	Budget Year - \$57.23 per month	
Ancel Glink 140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 600 Chicago, IL 60603	Legal	General Corporate Counsel – all RAILS locations	5/1/2014 – Until Termination	Budget Year - \$245.00 - \$260.00 per hour	
Ancel Glink 140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 600 Chicago, IL 60603	Consulting	FOIA Hotline for RAILS and IHLS Members – all RAILS and IHLS locations	3/11/2016 – Until Termination	Budget Year - \$245.00 - \$260.00 per hour	
AT&T Corp. 208 South Akard Street Dallas, TX 75202	Telephone and Telecommunications	MIS Ethernet Access – Bolingbrook location	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2027	Budget Year - \$469.86.00 per month	
AT&T Corp. 208 South Akard Street Dallas, TX 75202	Telephone and Telecommunications	MIS Ethernet Access and Managed Router – Burr Ridge location	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2027	Budget Year - \$819.57 per month	
AT&T Corp. 208 South Akard Street Dallas, TX 75202	Telephone and Telecommunications	Internet Service and Static IP Addresses for Public Wi-Fi – Burr Ridge location	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027	Budget Year - \$120.00 per month for up to 1.0 Gbps of Internet Service, and \$15.00 per month for five Static IP Addresses	

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Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Auto-Graphics, Inc. 15218 Summit Ave., Suite 300 Box #240 Fontana, CA 92336	Other Contractual Services	Find More Illinois Platform Subscription – all RAILS locations	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2029	Budget Year - \$110,000.00 annual base fee. Tier 1 (21 to 200 libraries) \$0.00 – \$600.00 paid quarterly per public, school, special, and academic library. Tier 2 (201 to 300 libraries) \$0.00 - \$500.00 paid quarterly per public, school, special, and academic library.	
Beary Landscape Management 4627 Elm Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513	Building Repairs and Maintenance	Lawn and Landscape Care – Burr Ridge location	4/1/2026 – 10/31/2028	Budget Year - \$740.00 per month commencing April 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026 for spring clean-up, edge beds and tree rings, cultivate beds and tree rings, weekly service of mowing and perennial beds maintenance, prune shrubs, fall clean up, turf application in spring, summer, and fall. Year Two commencing on April 1, 2027 through October 31, 2027 for \$740.00 per month, and Year Three commencing on April 1, 2028 through October 31, 2028 for \$760.00 per month.	

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Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Beary Landscape Management 4627 Elm Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513	Building Repairs and Maintenance	Snow and Ice Management Services – Burr Ridge location	11/1/2025 – 3/31/2028	Budget Year - \$135.00 per 1 – 3” plowing & shoveling, \$200.00 per 3.1 – 6” plowing & shoveling, \$290.00 per 6.1 – 8” plowing & shoveling, and \$270.00 per salt application.	
Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention Co. 820 North Addison Avenue Elmhurst IL 60126	Other Buildings and Grounds	Fire Alarm Monitoring Service – Burr Ridge location	1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$117.00 per quarter	
Comcast 1701 John F. Kennedy Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19103	Telephone and Telecommunications	Internet Service – Rockford location	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2029	Budget Year - \$267.85 per month	
Consortia Manager Lergravsvej 61, 2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark	Other Contractual Services	Subscription Automation Software for Member Library Group Purchases – all RAILS locations	4/1/2026 – 3/31/2027	Budget Year - \$22,771.00 annual license fee	
Continental Transportation Solutions, Inc. 1000 North County Line Road, Suite 2 Elmhurst, IL 60126	Other Contractual Services	Outsourcing of Burr Ridge and Wheeling Delivery	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2030	Budget Year - \$29.96 per stop for delivery, and a fuel surcharge ranging from 3.00% to 15.00% of the delivery portion of the per stop charges. Annual escalation shall be no less than two percent (2%) and will not exceed five percent (5%) per year.	

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Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Dixie Venture, Inc. 6000 West War Memorial Dr. Peoria, IL 61615 As Successor of Family Video Movie, Club, Inc. Keith Hoogland Limited Partnership	Rent/Lease	Lease Agreement – East Peoria location	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2028 with three additional two-year renewals	Budget Year - \$6,676.44 per month through June 30, 2027 with 72% of building expenses as well as 39% of property expenses incurred by the landlord including real estate taxes and operating expenses	Fourth extension in original lease signed 6/26/2021. 2% annual increase through June 30, 2028 and an annual 3% increase per year through June 30, 2034.
Dynegy Energy Services, LLC 6555 Sierra Drive Irving, TX 75039	Utilities	Electricity – Burr Ridge location	5/1/2026 – 5/31/2029	Budget Year – Fixed Energy Price @ \$0.08165 per kWh	
Employee Benefits Corp. P.O. Box 44347 Madison, WI 53744-4347	Other Fringe Benefits	Renewal Fee for Premium Pretax Benefit Plan – all RAILS locations	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$99.22 per month and \$275.00 per year	
First Bankcard c/o First National Bank of Omaha P.O. Box 2818 Omaha, NE 68103	Miscellaneous	Commercial Credit Cards – all RAILS locations	8/1/2025 – 7/31/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$135.00 per year	
Groot, Inc. 8475 53rd St. McCook, IL 60525	Other Buildings and Grounds	Trash and Recycling Removal – Bolingbrook location	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2028 with an additional renewal period of 12 months	Budget Year - \$101.25 per month, and a variable monthly charge of energy/environmental fees.	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Groot, Inc. 8475 53rd St. McCook, IL 60525	Other Buildings and Grounds	Trash and Recycling Removal – Burr Ridge location	4/1/2024 – 3/31/2029 with an additional renewal period of 12 months	Budget Year - \$116.79 per month, and a variable monthly charge of energy/environmental fees. - For years 2 through 5, the charges will not increase by more than 8% per year.	
HR Source 3025 Highland Parkway, Suite 225 Downers Grove, IL 60515	Consulting	Management Association Memberships and CE Events for RAILS Member Libraries – all RAILS locations	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$20,000.00 down payment and pro-rated additional fees based on participation at \$630.00 per library	
i3 Broadband, LLC 602 High Point Lane East Peoria, IL 61611	Telephone and Telecommunications	Internet Service – East Peoria location	3/19/2025 – 3/18/2028	Budget Year - \$424.98 per month	
Infinite Connections, Inc. 1647 West Erie, Ste 1 Chicago, IL 60622	Consulting	Assess, process, and submit forms for E-Rate filing	1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026	Budget Year - \$2,200.00 fixed fee	
KONE Inc P.O. Box 734874 Chicago, IL 60673-4874	Equipment Repair and Maintenance Agreements	Elevator Maintenance – Coal Valley location	4/1/2026 – 3/31/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$745.08 per year	
Konica Minolta 1111 Old Eagle School Road Wayne, PA 19807	Equipment Rental	Copier Lease – all RAILS locations	1/1/2026 – 12/31/2030	Budget Year - \$711.12 per month, \$0.03200 cost per color copy, and \$0.00390 cost per black & white copy.	
Lane Real Estate LLC 2005 15th Street Rockford, IL 61104	Rent/Lease	Lease Agreement – Rockford location	3/1/2024 – 2/28/2027	Budget Year - \$3,260.01 per month through February 28, 2027 with \$804.75 per month for real estate taxes	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
LIRA c/o ILA 560 W. Washington Blvd., Ste. 330 Chicago, IL 60661- 2692	Liability Insurance, Property Insurance, Vehicle Insurance, Workman's Comp. Insurance, and associated fees	Insurance Risk Management Services – all RAILS locations	Indefinite, but 3 Year Minimum (Initially joined March 2014)	Budget Year - \$279,031.21 per year through December 31, 2026	
Lyrasis 3390 Peachtree Rd., NE Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30326	Other Contractual Services	eRead Illinois Platform – all RAILS locations	11/1/2025 – 6/30/2028	Budget Year - \$105,000 minus annual content spend discount ranging from \$5,250 to \$105,000	
Lyrasis 3390 Peachtree Rd., NE Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30326	Conferences and Continuing Education Meetings	Lyrasis Group Agent Membership – all RAILS locations	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027	Budget Year - \$2,585.00 per year	
Mediacom dba MCC Telephony, LLC 1 Mediacom Way Mediacom Park, NY 10918	Telephone and Telecommunications	Internet Service – Coal Valley location	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2028	Budget Year - \$350.00 per month	
OPP. Franchising, Inc. dba Jani-King of IL 2791 Momentum Place Chicago, IL 60689- 5327	Custodial/Janitorial Service and Supplies	Cleaning Service – Bolingbrook location	3/10/2026 – 3/9/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$1,732.25 per month, five times per week cleaning for entrance, offices, restroom, empty garbage in warehouse nightly, and warehouse cleaning	
PHD Services, LLC 519 Abington Street Peoria, IL 61603	Custodial/Janitorial Service and Supplies	Cleaning Service – East Peoria location	1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$784.50 per month	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Pitney Bowes Inc. 27 Waterview Drive Shelton, CT 06484	Postage	Postal Meter - Burr Ridge location	1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$333.72 per quarter and \$856.80 per year	
PremiStar-North, formerly West Town Mechanical 10 Parkway North, Suite 100 Deerfield, IL 60015	Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	HVAC Maintenance – Burr Ridge location	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$751.00 per month	
The Quipu Group, LLC 820 S. Monaco Parkway, #453 Denver, CO 80224	Other Contractual Services	Museum Pass – all RAILS locations	10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$45,740.00 per year	
Reliable Fire & Security 12845 S. Cicero Ave. Alsip, IL 60803	Other Buildings and Grounds	Sprinkler and Fire Systems Inspection – Burr Ridge location	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year – fire alarm inspection - \$665.00, halon inspection - \$570.00 twice a year, sprinkler system inspection - \$570.00, emergency light inspection - \$470.00, and fire extinguisher testing and recertification - \$832.00	
Republic Services 6449 Valley Drive Bettendorf, IA 52722-555858	Other Buildings and Grounds	Trash and Recycling Removal – Coal Valley location	9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026 Renewed Annually following Initial Term	Budget Year - \$74.50 per month base rate, \$5.95 per month administrative fee, and a variable monthly charge of fuel/environmental recovery fee with a 10% increase on pickup service effective 9/2024	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Rock River Disposal Services, Inc. 4002 S. Main St. Rockford, IL 61102	Other Buildings and Grounds	Trash and Recycling Removal – Rockford location	4/1/2024 – 3/31/2027 Month to Month after Initial Term	Budget Year - \$41.25 per month, and a variable monthly charge of fuel/material surcharge with no more than a 3% increase per year for the second and third contract years	
Shallow Bay – Chicago Industrial Property Investors LP Westmount Realty Capital 700 N. Pearl St., #1650 Dallas, TX 75201 Purchased from Up Crossroads, LLC	Rent/Lease	Lease Agreement - Bolingbrook location	Suites A, B, and C – 6/01/2025 – 11/30/2027 Suite D – 12/01/2024 – 11/30/2027	Budget Year - \$11,358.28 per month commencing on June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027 for Units A, B and C increasing to \$11,812.61 per month through November 30, 2027, and \$4,074.72 per month commencing on December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026 for Unit D increasing to \$4,237.71 per month through November 30, 2027, all units with 21.80% of all additional rent incurred by the landlord including real estate taxes, insurance, and operating expenses	Exercise of fifth amendment in original lease signed 3/28/2013.
Sikich CPA LLC 1415 W. Diehl Rd., Suite 400 Naperville, IL 60563	Accounting	Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit – all RAILS locations	FY25 – FY29	Budget Year - \$19,060.00 for annual financial audit and \$3,090.00 for single audit	
Stuard & Associates 7500 N. Blue Heron Drive Unionville, IN 47468	Other Buildings and Grounds	Elevator Inspection – Coal Valley location	6/3/2026 – 6/2/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$220.00 per year	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Thermflo, Inc. 875 Busch Parkway Buffalo Grove, IL 60089	Equipment Repair and Maintenance Agreements	Generator Maintenance – Burr Ridge location	6/1/2026 – 5/31/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$1,897.00 per year for annual oil, oil filter, fuel filter, and air filter replacement and software updates. Additional services will be billed on a per incident basis including \$500.00 for evening and Saturday service, \$1,000.00 for Sunday and Holiday service, \$1,287.00 for 2 hour progressive load bank test, \$1,487.00 for progressive load bank test, and labor charges ranging from \$192.00 - \$341.00 per hour in addition to a \$185.00 truck charge.	
University of Illinois P.O. Box 820 Rantoul, IL 61866	Fees for Services and Materials Revenue	ILDS Delivery Service	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025 with four additional optional renewal years - 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2029	Budget Year - \$796,793.02 – Including annual increases of 4%, and \$4,485.29 per additional delivery stop with each additional stop increasing annually by 4%. Also includes a 0% to 4% monthly fuel surcharge based on the Energy Information Administration monthly Chicago Index price per gallon.	
Verizon Connect 5055 North Point Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30022	Telephone and Telecommunications	GPS Tracking for Fleet – all RAILS locations	2/5/2026 – 2/4/2027 Month to Month after Initial Term	Budget Year – \$639.20 per month for 40 GPS trackers at \$15.98 each	

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

Contractor Name and Address	Budget Line Item	Description of Services Rendered	Contract Start & End Dates	Contract Amount for the Budget Year	Comments
Vestis First Aid and Safety, LLC 2680 Palumbo Drive, Suite 100 Lexington, KY 40509	General Office Supplies and Equipment	First Aid Kit Supplies – Burr Ridge and Bolingbrook locations	Renewed Annually	Budget Year – As needed refills per item used (average of \$140.00 per month)	
WEX Health, Inc. 4321 20 th Avenue SW Fargo, ND 58103	Other Fringe Benefits	Renewal Fee for FSA and HRA Benefit Plans – all RAILS locations	1/1/2026 – 1/1/2027	Budget Year – FSA @ \$5.15 per participant per month (minimum of \$50.00 per month), HRA @ \$5.00 per participant per month	
Wright National Flood Insurance Company P.O. Box 33003 St. Petersburg, FL 33733-8003	Property Insurance	Flood Insurance – Coal Valley location	12/26/2025 – 12/26/2026 Renewed Annually	Budget Year – 2,474.00 per year	
Wyffels Family Inc. 606 Rock Point Rd. Colona, IL 61241	Building Repairs and Maintenance	Lawn and Landscape Care – Coal Valley location	2/16/2026 – 10/31/2027 Renewed Annually	Budget Year - \$127.00 per week for mow, trim, blow, and edge, \$200.00 per seasonal cleanup (Spring and Fall), \$150.00 per lawn weed control application (2 times per year), \$160.00 per fertilizer application (April and June), and \$150.00 per tree trimming (2 times per year)	Depending on the weather and growth of the lawn contract could be extended through November.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.5: Information detailing the health, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage for employees and dependents

Employee Individual Insurance Coverage

Health Insurance: Employer/employee contribution amounts for health insurance are not determined by an employee's annual salary.

Employee's Individual Insurance Coverage		
Type of Insurance	Percentage of Coverage Paid by Employer	Percentage of Coverage Paid by Employee
Medical – HMO Plan	80%	20%
Medical – High PPO Plan	80%	20%
Medical – High PPO Plan w/HSA	80%	20%
Dental – HMO Plan	80%	20%
Dental – PPO plan	80%	20%
Vision Plan	80%	20%

Are employer/employee contribution amounts for health insurance determined by the employer's annual salary? **No**

Is a term life insurance program offered to library system employees? **Yes**

If yes, what percentage of the premium is paid by the library system: RAILS pays 100% of the premium of the basis life insurance plan, which provides for life insurance of \$30,000. The employee pays 100% of the premiums for any life insurance the employee enrolls for above that amount.

Dependent Insurance Coverage

Type of Insurance	% Covered by Employer	% Covered by Employee
Medical – All plans	70%	30%
Dental – All plans	70%	30%
Vision	70%	30%

Retiree Health Insurance: Retiree health insurance coverage is offered to library system employees. The retiree pays 100% of the premium and administrative fees; therefore, there is no annual cost to the library system for offering this retirement benefit.

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.6 Physical Facilities in FY2027

Property Address	Rent or Own?	Use of Property	Plans for Property	Term	Cost of lease
1000 W. Crossroads Parkway Bolingbrook, IL 60490	Rent	Delivery workspace	Continue to lease	Suites A,B, and C – 6/01/2025 – 11/30/2027 Suite D – 12/01/2024 – 11/30/2027	Suites A,B, and C - \$11,358.28 per month through May 31, 2027, \$11,812.61 per month through November 30, 2027 Suite D - \$4,074.72 per month through November 30, 2026, \$4,237.71 per month through November 30, 2027 With 21.80% additional costs for real estate taxes, insurance, and operating expenses
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527	Own	Administration	Continue to own	None	None
220 W. 23 rd Ave. Coal Valley, IL 61240	Own	Delivery workspace	Continue to own	None	None

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.6 Physical Facilities in FY2027

Property Address	Rent or Own?	Use of Property	Plans for Property	Term	Cost of lease
715 Sabrina Dr East Peoria, IL 61611	Rent	Delivery and LLSAP workspace	Continue to lease	7/1/2026 – 6/30/2028	\$6,676.44 per month through June 30, 2027 With 72% of building expenses and 39% additional costs for real estate taxes and operating expenses
4717 Colt Rd. Rockford, IL 61109	Rent	Delivery workspace	Continue to lease	3/1/2024 – 2/28/2027	\$3,260.01 per month through February 28, 2027 With \$804.75 per month for real estate taxes

RAILS FY2026 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.7: Listing and Description of All Corporations Formed by the Library System

Name	Brief description	System Area and Per Capita Grant Budgeted (direct or indirect)	Is any SAPG spending not related to ISL core priorities? (Yes or No)	Attach Articles of Incorporation and Annual Report for each corporation
None	None	None	Not Applicable	None

RAILS FY2027 System Area and Per Capita Grant Application

4. Exhibit 4.8: Description of All Pending Litigation

Case name	Docket number	Legal representation	Brief explanation	Potential impact	Cost breakdown/analysis
No pending litigation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

DAN BOSTROM

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

MONICA CALDICOTT

Filing Date: 03/12/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Asset Type: REAL ESTATE

Asset Name: PRIMARY RESIDENCE

Address 1: 5417 GERRY LANE

City: CRYSTAL LAKE

State: IL

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

JEAN CARROLL

Filing Date: 03/24/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agencies:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER
1720-0	WESTERN SPRINGS, VILLAGE OF	LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

JENNIFER CUTSHALL

Filing Date: 03/10/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agencies:

Code	Name	Title
0236-0	HOMewood PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT	TRUSTEE
0255-0	NORTH RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Director
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

SAMANTHA DALY

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

JOE FILAPEK

Filing Date: 03/04/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

NINCY GEORGE

Filing Date: 03/05/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	CATALOGING SERVICES MANAGER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

State: IL

City: TINLEY PARK

Address 1: 17224 SHETLAND DRIVE

Asset Name: PERSONAL RESIDENCE

Asset Type: REAL ESTATE

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year,

list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member

known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

MEGAN GOVE

Filing Date: 03/05/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

GWEN GREGORY

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Applicable To: SELF

Unit of Government: OTHER

Unit of Government - Other: NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Job Title: ASSOCIATE DEAN

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

GRANT HALTER

Filing Date: 03/13/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	DATA ANALYSIS MANAGER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

MONICA HARRIS

Filing Date: 04/06/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to re- port any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

MARK HATCH

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS DELIVERY AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

RON HOLOHAN

Filing Date: 04/09/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Source of Income: STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT PENSION

Answer:

Source of Income: SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM PENSION

Answer:

Source of Income: FEDELITY BROKERAGE

Answer:

Source of Income: EDWARD JONES

Answer:

Source of Income: WELLS FARGO

Answer:

Source of Income: VANGUARD

Answer:

Source of Income: NUVEEN MUN TR

Date Sold: 6/3/2025 12:00:00 AM

Answer:

Source of Income: NUVEEN ALL-AMERICAN MUN BD

Date Sold: 6/3/2025 12:00:00 AM

Answer:

Source of Income: THORNBERG INV. INC. BLDR

Date Sold: 11/20/2025 12:00:00 AM

Answer:

Source of Income: VNGRD WELLINGTON ADML

Date Sold: 12/23/2025 12:00:00 AM

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to

members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Applicable To: SELF

Unit of Government: OTHER

Unit of Government - Other: DUNLAP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Job Title: TRUSTEE

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria,

excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

LEILA HEATH

Filing Date: 03/13/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY RESOURCES & PROGRAMS

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

JENNIFER HOVANEK

Filing Date: 04/13/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agencies:

Code	Name	Title
0241-0	LAGRANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Asset Name: DOMESTIC STOCKS

Asset Type: ASSET

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Job Title: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Unit of Government: REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)

Applicable To: SELF

Answer:

Job Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unit of Government: LAGRANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Applicable To: SELF

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

AMANDA KOWALCZE

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Source of Income: POSITION AS LIBRARY DIRECTOR OF FRANKFORT PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Job Title: LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Unit of Government - Other: FRANKFORT PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Unit of Government: OTHER

Applicable To: SELF

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

BARB MILLER

Filing Date: 03/02/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	CONSORTIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

KATHRYN NIEHOFF

Filing Date: 03/05/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	DIRECTOR OF CONSULTING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

STACY PALMISANO

Filing Date: 03/02/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

ROBERTA PARKS

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

State: IL

City: PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Address 2: UNIT 802

Address 1: 401 SW WATER ST

Asset Name: CONDO

Asset Type: REAL ESTATE

Answer:

Asset Name: 2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

Asset Type Other: AUTOMOBILE

Asset Type: OTHER

Answer:

Asset Name: VARIOUS 401KS AND IRAS HELD BY CHARLES SCHWAB

Asset Type: ASSET

Answer:

Asset Name: TRUST ACCOUNT FOR MY GRANDSON, BLAZE HAWK HELD BY MORGAN STANLEY

Asset Type: ASSET

Answer:

Asset Name: REVOCABLE TRUST IN MY NAME HELD AT CHARLES SCHWAB

Asset Type: ASSET

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Source of Income: VARIOUS 401KS AND IRAS AND TRUST ACCOUNT HELD BY CHARLES SCHWAB

Answer:

Source of Income: TIAA ANNUITY

Answer:

Source of Income: CATERPILLAR ANNUITY

Answer:

Source of Income: SOCIAL SECURITY

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Job Title: TRUSTEE

Unit of Government - Other: PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY, PEORIA IL

Unit of Government: OTHER

Applicable To: SELF

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

EMILY PORTER

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Job Title: COMMISSIONER

Unit of Government - Other: FOREST PRESERVES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Unit of Government: OTHER

Applicable To: SELF

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

CAROLYN SENNETT

Filing Date: 03/24/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agencies:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER
0282-0	WILMETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Trustee

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Asset Name: ROCKWELL AUTOMATION

Asset Type: ASSET

Answer:

Asset Name: BP

Asset Type: ASSET

Answer:

Asset Name: EDISON INTERNATIONAL

Asset Type: ASSET

Answer:

Asset Name: RTX CORPORATION

Asset Type: ASSET

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to re- port any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

ANNE SLAUGHTER

Filing Date: 03/19/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

WESLEY SMITH

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	RAILS IT MANAGER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

SHARON SWANSON

Filing Date: 03/03/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	FINANCE DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

ALEX VANCINA

Filing Date: 03/14/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Source of Income: HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Job Title: TECHNOLOGY & METADATA SERVICES MANAGER

Unit of Government - Other: HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Unit of Government: OTHER

Applicable To: SELF

Answer:

Job Title: PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Unit of Government - Other: NEW LENOX PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Unit of Government: OTHER

Applicable To: SELF

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

KAREN VOITIK

Filing Date: 03/01/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

YOLANDE WILBURN

Filing Date: 04/13/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agencies:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER
1611-0	EVANSTON, CITY OF	LIBRARY DIRECTOR

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

State: IL

City: CHICAGO

Address 2: UNIT 705

Address 1: 310 S. MICHIGAN AVE

Asset Name: HOME

Asset Type: REAL ESTATE

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you

sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the

lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable



Statement of Economic Interests

Filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office

<https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov>

(312) 603-1121

CATHERINE YANIKOSKI

Filing Date: 03/25/2026

Filing Year: 2025

Your Agency:

Code	Name	Title
0276-0	REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEMS (RAILS)	BOARD MEMBER

1. If you have any single asset that was worth more than \$11,600 as of the end of the preceding calendar year and is held in, or payable to, your name, held jointly by, or payable to, you with your spouse, or held jointly by, or payable to, you with your minor child, list such assets below. In the case of investment real estate, list the city and state where the investment real estate is located. If you do not have any such assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Asset Name: 2019 KIA SPORTAGE

Asset Type: ASSET

2. Excluding the position for which you are required to file this form, list the source of any income in excess of \$8,700 required to be reported during the preceding calendar year. If you sold an asset that produced more than \$8,700 in capital gains in the preceding calendar year, list the name of the asset and the transaction date on which the sale or transfer took place. If you had no such sources of income or assets, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

3. Excluding debts incurred on terms available to the general public, such as mortgages, student loans, and credit card debts, if you owed any single debt in the preceding calendar year exceeding \$11,600, list the creditor of the debt below. If you had no such debts, list "none" below. List the creditor for all applicable debts owed by you, owed jointly by you with your spouse, or owed jointly by you with your minor child. In addition to the types of debts listed above, you do not need to report any debts to or from financial institutions or government agencies, such as debts secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, as long as the debt was made on terms available to the general public, debts to members of your family, or debts to or from a political committee registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections or any political committee, principal campaign committee, or authorized committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Answer:

Not Applicable

4. List the name of each unit of government of which you or your spouse were an employee, contractor, or office holder during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file and the title of the position or nature of the contractual services.

Answer:

Not Applicable

5. If you maintain an economic relationship with a lobbyist or if a member of your family is known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list the name of the lobbyist below and identify the nature of your relationship with the lobbyist. If you do not have an economic relationship with a lobbyist or a family member known to you to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

6. List the name of each person, organization, or entity that was the source of a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$600 received during the preceding calendar year and the type of gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, excluding any gift or gifts from a member of your family that was not known to be a lobbyist registered with any unit of government in the State of Illinois. If you had no such gifts, list "none" below.

Answer:

Not Applicable

7. List the name of any spouse or immediate family member living with the person making this statement employed by a public utility in this State and the name of the public utility that employs the relative.

Answer:

Not Applicable

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM (RAILS)

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01, AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY
THE ETHICS ACT ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE 2011-02)**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has enacted the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Public Act 93-615, effective November 19, 2003, as amended by Public Act 93-617, effective December 9, 2003), which is a comprehensive revision of State statutes regulating ethical conduct, political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by State officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires all units of local government and school districts, within six months after the effective date of Public Act 93-615, to adopt ordinances or resolutions regulating the political activities of, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by, the officers and employees of such units "in a manner no less restrictive" than the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, it is the clear intention of the Act to require units of local government and school districts to implement regulations that are at least as restrictive as those contained in the Act, and to impose penalties for violations of those regulations that are equivalent to those imposed by the Act, notwithstanding that such penalties may exceed the general authority granted to units of local government to penalize ordinance violations; and

WHEREAS, it is the clear intention of the Act to provide units of local government with all authority necessary to implement its requirements on the local level regardless of any general limitations on the power to define and punish ordinance violations that might otherwise be applicable; and

WHEREAS, because the Act provides for the imposition of significant penalties for violations of said local regulations, it is necessary to adopt the required regulations by Ordinance rather than by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System ("RAILS") adopted Ordinance No. 2011-02 establishing ethics regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to modify the membership of the ethics commission and amend and replace Ordinance No. 2011-12 in its entirety with the provisions set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Ordinance No. 2011-12 is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety with the provisions contained in this Ordinance:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

Section 1-1. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall be given these definitions:

"Campaign for elective office" means any activity in furtherance of an effort to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any federal, State, or local public office or office in a political organization, or the selection, nomination, or election of Presidential or Vice-Presidential electors, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Candidate" means a person who has filed nominating papers or petitions for nomination or election to an elected office, or who has been appointed to fill a vacancy in nomination, and who remains eligible for placement on the ballot at a regular election, as defined in section 1-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/1-3).

"Collective bargaining" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/3).

"Compensated time" means, with respect to an employee, any time worked by or credited to the employee that counts toward any minimum work time requirement imposed as a condition of his or her employment, but for purposes of this Ordinance, does not include any designated holidays, vacation periods, personal time, compensatory time off or any period when the employee is on a leave of absence. With respect to officers or employees whose hours are not fixed, "compensated time" includes any period of time when the officer is on premises under the control of the employer and any other time when the officer or employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

"Compensatory time off" means authorized time off earned by or awarded to an employee to compensate in whole or in part for time worked in excess of the minimum work time required of that employee as a condition of his or her employment.

"Contribution" has the same meaning as that term is defined in section 9-1.4 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-1.4).

"Employee" means a person employed by the RAILS, whether on a fulltime or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, but does not include an independent contractor.

"Employer" means the RAILS.

"Gift" means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including, but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of an officer or employee.

"Leave of absence" means any period during which an employee does not receive (i) compensation for employment, (ii) service credit towards pension benefits, and (iii) health insurance benefits paid for by the employer.

"Officer" means a person who holds, by election or appointment, an office created by statute or ordinance, regardless of whether the officer is compensated for service in his or her official capacity.

"Political activity" means any activity in support of or in connection with any campaign for elective office or any political organization, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Political organization" means a party, committee, association, fund, or other organization (whether or not incorporated) that is required to file a statement of organization with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk under Section 9-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-3), but only with regard to those activities that require filing with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk.

"Prohibited political activity" means:

(1) Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.

(2) Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.

(3) Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.

(4) Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.

(5) Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.

(6) Assisting at the polls on election day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(7) Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.

(8) Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(9) Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.

(10) Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.

(11) Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(12) Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(13) Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(14) Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.

(15) Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

"Prohibited source" means any person or entity who:

(1) is seeking official action (i) by an officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee;

(2) does business or seeks to do business (i) with the officer or (ii) with an employee, or with the officer or another employee directing that employee;

(3) conducts activities regulated (i) by the officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee; or

(4) has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the officer or employee.

ARTICLE 5

PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Section 5-1. Prohibited political activities. (a) No officer or employee shall intentionally perform any prohibited political activity during any compensated time, as defined herein. No officer or employee shall intentionally use any property or resources of the RAILS in connection with any prohibited political activity.

(b) At no time shall any officer or employee intentionally require any other officer or employee to perform any prohibited political activity (i) as part of that officer or employee's duties, (ii) as a condition of employment, or (iii) during any compensated time off (such as holidays, vacation or personal time off).

(c) No officer or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any prohibited political activity in consideration for that officer or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise, nor shall any officer or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any prohibited political activity.

(d) Nothing in this Section prohibits activities that are permissible for an officer or employee to engage in as part of his or her official duties, or activities that are undertaken by an officer or employee on a voluntary basis which are not prohibited by this Ordinance.

(e) No person either (i) in a position that is subject to recognized merit principles of public employment or (ii) in a position the salary for which is paid in whole or in part by federal funds and that is subject to the Federal Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration applicable to grant-in-aid programs, shall be denied or deprived of employment or tenure solely because he or she is a member or an officer of a political committee, of a political party, or of a political organization or club.

ARTICLE 10

GIFT BAN

Section 10-1. Gift ban. Except as permitted by this Article, no officer or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with any officer or employee (collectively referred to herein as "recipients"), shall intentionally solicit or accept any gift from any prohibited source, as defined herein, or which is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this Section.

Section 10-2. Exceptions. Section 10-1 is not applicable to the following:

(1) Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.

(2) Anything for which the officer or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.

(3) Any (i) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code or (ii) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.

(4) Educational materials and missions.

(5) Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.

(6) A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

(7) Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (i) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (ii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (iii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

(8) Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are (i) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared or (ii) catered. For the purposes of this Section, "catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.

(9) Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of an officer or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the officer or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

(10) Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. For the purpose of this Act, "intra-governmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee from another officer or employee, and "inter-governmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee by an officer or employee of another governmental entity.

(11) Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

(12) Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100. Each of the exceptions listed in this Section is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

Section 10-3. Disposition of gifts. An officer or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the officer or employee, does not violate this Ordinance if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now or hereafter amended, renumbered, or succeeded.

ARTICLE 15

ETHICS ADVISOR

Section 15-1. The Executive Director, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors shall designate an Ethics Advisor for the RAILS. The duties of the Ethics Advisor may be delegated to an officer or employee of the RAILS unless the position has been created as an office by the RAILS.

Section 15-2. The Ethics Advisor shall provide guidance to the officers and employees of the RAILS concerning the interpretation of and compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and State ethics laws. The Ethics Advisor shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 20

ETHICS COMMISSION

Section 20-1. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Ethics Commission of RAILS.

Section 20-2. The Commission shall be comprised of the members of the RAILS Executive Committee.

Section 20-3. At the first meeting of the Commission, the commissioners shall choose a chairperson from their number. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairperson or any 2 commissioners. A quorum shall consist of three commissioners, and official action by the commission shall require the affirmative vote of three members.

Section 20-4. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To promulgate procedures and rules governing the performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers.

(2) Upon receipt of a signed, notarized, written complaint, to investigate, conduct hearings and deliberations, issue recommendations for disciplinary actions, impose fines in

accordance with Section 25-1(c) of this Ordinance and refer violations of Article 5 or Article 10 of this Ordinance to the appropriate attorney for prosecution. The Commission shall, however, act only upon the receipt of a written complaint alleging a violation of this Ordinance and not upon its own prerogative.

(3) To receive information from the public pertaining to its investigations and to require additional information and documents from persons who may have violated the provisions of this Ordinance.

(4) To compel the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of books and papers pertinent to an investigation. It is the obligation of all officers and employees of the RAILS to cooperate with the Commission during the course of its investigations. Failure or refusal to cooperate with requests by the Commission shall constitute grounds for discipline or discharge.

(5) The powers and duties of the Commission are limited to matters clearly within the purview of this Ordinance.

Section 20-5. (a) Complaints alleging a violation of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Ethics Commission.

(b) Within 3 business days after the receipt of a complaint, the Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice to the respondent that a complaint has been filed against him or her and a copy of the complaint. The Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a confirmation of the receipt of the complaint to the complainant within 3 business days after receipt by the commission. The notices to the respondent and the complainant shall also advise them of the date, time, and place of the meeting to determine the sufficiency of the complaint and to establish whether probable cause exists to proceed.

(c) Upon not less than 48 hours' public notice, the Commission shall meet to review the sufficiency of the complaint and, if the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of this Ordinance, to determine whether there is probable cause, based on the evidence presented by the complainant, to proceed. The meeting may be closed to the public to the extent authorized by the Open Meetings Act. The Commission shall issue notice to the complainant and the respondent of the Commission's ruling on the sufficiency of the complaint and, if necessary, on probable cause to proceed within 7 business days after receiving the complaint.

If the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of Article 10 of this Ordinance and there is a determination of probable cause, then the Commission's notice to the parties shall include a hearing date scheduled within 4 weeks after the complaint's receipt. Alternatively, the Commission may elect to notify in writing the attorney designated by the corporate authorities to prosecute such actions and request that the complaint be adjudicated judicially. If the complaint is deemed not sufficient to allege a violation or if there is no determination of probable cause, then the Commission shall send by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice to the parties of the decision to dismiss the complaint, and that notice shall be made public.

If the complaint is deemed sufficient to allege a violation of Article 5 of this Ordinance, then the Commission shall notify in writing the attorney designated by the corporate authorities to prosecute such actions and shall transmit to the attorney the complaint and all additional documents in the custody of the Commission concerning the alleged violation.

(d) On the scheduled date and upon at least 48 hours' public notice of the meeting, the Commission shall conduct a hearing on the complaint and shall allow both parties the opportunity to present testimony and evidence. The hearing may be closed to the public only if authorized by the Open Meetings Act.

(e) Within 30 days after the date the hearing or any recessed hearing is concluded, the Commission shall either (i) dismiss the complaint or (ii) issue a recommendation for discipline to the alleged violator and to the Executive Director, or impose a fine upon the violator, or both. The particular findings in the case, any recommendation for discipline, and any fine imposed shall be a matter of public information.

(f) If the hearing was closed to the public, the respondent may file a written demand for a public hearing on the complaint within 7 business days after the issuance of the recommendation for discipline or imposition of a fine, or both. The filing of the demand shall stay the enforcement of the recommendation or fine. Within 14 days after receiving the demand, the Commission shall conduct a public hearing on the complaint upon at least 48 hours' public notice of the hearing and allow both parties the opportunity to present testimony and evidence. Within 7 days thereafter, the Commission shall publicly issue a final recommendation to the alleged violator and to the Executive Director or impose a fine upon the violator, or both.

(g) If a complaint is filed during the 60 days preceding the date of any election at which the respondent is a candidate, the Commission shall render its decision as required under subsection (e) within 7 days after the complaint is filed, and during the 7 days preceding that election, the Commission shall render such decision before the date of that election, if possible.

(h) The Commission may fine any person who intentionally violates any provision of Article 10 of this Ordinance in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000. The Commission may fine any person who knowingly files a frivolous complaint alleging a violation of this Ordinance in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000. The Commission may recommend any appropriate discipline up to and including discharge.

(i) A complaint alleging the violation of this Act must be filed within one year after the alleged violation.

ARTICLE 25

PENALTIES

Section 25-1. Penalties. (a) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article 5 of this Ordinance may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

(b) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article 10 of this Ordinance is subject to a fine in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000.

(c) Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this Ordinance to the local enforcement authorities, the State's Attorney or any other law enforcement official may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

(d) A violation of Article 5 of this Ordinance shall be prosecuted as a criminal offense by an attorney for the RAILS by filing in the circuit court an information, or sworn complaint, charging such offense. The prosecution shall be under and conform to the rules of criminal procedure. Conviction shall require the establishment of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

A violation of Article 10 of this Ordinance may be prosecuted as a quasi-criminal offense by an attorney for the RAILS, or, if an Ethics Commission has been created, by the Commission through the designated administrative procedure.

(e) In addition to any other penalty that may be applicable, whether criminal or civil, an officer or employee who intentionally violates any provision of Article 5 or Article 10 of this Ordinance is subject to discipline or discharge.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall be in effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM, IN PUBLIC SESSION ASSEMBLED THIS 17 th DAY OF June 2016.


Secretary, Board of Directors,
Reaching Across Illinois Library System

4847-3267-4098, v. 1

Reviewed and approved by the RAILS Board on January 24, 2024

4.1 Exhibit 4.11 Compliance with Illinois Statutes

Legal Statute	Citation	Date the library system board reviewed the statute	Did the review by the library system board require a change in system policy or operation?
Open Meetings Act (OMA)	5 ILCS 120	11/14/2025	No
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	5 ILCS 140	11/14/2025	No
Illinois Public Labor Relations Act	5 ILCS 315	11/14/2025	No
Illinois Government Ethics Act	5 ILCS 420	11/14/2025	No
Local Records Act	50 ILCS 205	11/14/2025	No
State Officials & Employees Ethics Act	5 ILCS 430	11/14/2025	No
Public Funds Deposit Act	30 ILCS 225	11/14/2025	No
Public Funds Investment Act	30 ILCS 235	11/14/2025	No
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)	40 ILCS 5	11/14/2025	No
Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act	50 ILCS 105	11/14/2025	No
Illinois Library System Act	75 ILCS 10	11/14/2025	No
Equal Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act)	42 USC 126	11/14/2025	No
Illinois Human Rights Act	775 ILCS 5	11/14/2025	No

Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)

Bylaws

Revision Control

These bylaws were adopted by the individual System Boards (Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Metropolitan Library System, North Suburban Library System, Prairie Area Library System) as Appendix B of the Intergovernmental Agreement in February 2011.

- RAILS Bylaws – APPROVED by System Boards February 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – ADOPTED by the Merger Transition Board on March 10, 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – RATIFIED by RAILS Board on July 1, 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS BOARD October 21, 2011 (Article 6, Section D)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board December 19, 2011 (Article 4, Section B; Article 5, Section N)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board February 22, 2013 (Article 5E; Article 5K; Article 5O)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 5C and E)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 5, Section N)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 6, Section A)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board June 19, 2015 (Article 1; Article 5B, C & D; Article 8)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board July 24, 2015 (Article 6; Section D)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board October 30, 2015 (Article 6; Section B)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 28, 2021 (Article 2; Article 5C, Article 6A)

Article 1 Name and Definitions

- The name of the organization shall be Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) hereinafter known as the System.
- A “Member,” or “the Membership,” refers to the library organizations that have chosen to join, been approved, and receive services from the System.
- “Directors” are individuals serving on the System Board of Directors.
- “Eligible electors” are individuals who are eligible to register to vote within the territory of the System. Each Member library will designate an individual who will cast the organization’s vote in the election of Directors to the System Board.

Article 2 Purpose

RAILS is a multi-type regional library system that fosters collaboration and resource sharing among libraries to empower them to better serve their clientele or library users.

Article 3 Authority

The System derives its authority from the Library Systems Act (75 ILCS 10/1 et seq.). This statute states that it is the policy of the State of Illinois in promoting public education, and in serving all levels of the educational process, to encourage the improvement of free public libraries and the cooperation among all types of libraries in the sharing of library resources.

Article 4 Membership in the System

A. Eligibility

The statutes and administrative rules of the State of Illinois and the Membership Criteria of the System govern Membership in the System. Any Public, School, Academic or Special library, within the service area, is eligible to apply for Membership. Participating libraries will hereinafter be known as Members. Acceptance is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the System and the State Librarian and implies agreement by the applying library to applicable State statutes and rules and to the System's Bylaws, policies and Plan of Service. Members agree to comply with policies, rules and regulations required for maintaining Membership.

B. Suspension

Any Member library may be suspended from Membership if not in compliance with State Statutes, Administrative Rules or System Requirements. Members will remain in good standing as long as they meet System and State Membership criteria. Specific information about Suspension can be found in the Administrative Rules (3030.115).

Article 5 Governance

A. The Governing Board

The Governing Board shall be the System Board of Directors composed of fifteen (15) individuals hereinafter referred to as "The System Board."

B. Number and Qualifications

While all Directors are expected to represent the entire System, the Board of Directors will be made up of the following types of individuals.

1. Eight (8) seats will be held by Board members of Member Public Libraries.
2. One (1) seat will be held by an individual who is currently employed by a School Library.
3. One (1) seat will be held by an individual employed by an Academic Library.
4. One (1) seat will be held by an individual employed by a Special Library.
5. The remaining four (4) seats will be filled by individuals elected at large and currently employed by or current members of the governing board of libraries of any types: public, academic, school and special, and without regard to type of library.
6. All Directors must be eligible electors in the geographical area of the System.

C. Nominations

1. Each year, the President of the System Board will appoint a Nominating Committee that selects and confirms candidates for election to the System Board. The committee shall be comprised of no less than five individuals. Of these individuals, no more than the Chair of the Committee and one other Director shall be appointed to the committee from the sitting Board. All other committee members shall be appointed from general RAILS membership. No Nominating Committee Member may be slated for election to the System Board.
2. The Nominating Committee shall make every effort to recruit a diverse, equitable and inclusive roster of candidates for the RAILS board so that the board will truly represent, as much as

possible, the diverse membership of RAILS libraries and their communities. The call for nominations will be publicized to the Members of the System and any Member may propose names for the Nominating Committee's consideration

3. Further nomination may be made upon written petitions of ten (10) Member Libraries represented by the type of seat on the System Board to be filled. Such petitions, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee, must be filed with the System Board Secretary, who will convey the nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Timing of such petition will be appropriately publicized.
4. No individual may be a candidate for more than one Board seat in a specific election. No individual may hold two RAILS board seats simultaneously.
5. An individual may not serve on the RAILS board if the individual's election or appointment to the board would result in there being on the board at the same time two individuals who are employed by and/or on the governing board of the same member library. If two candidates from the same member library both receive enough votes to be seated on the board in the same election, the candidate with the lowest number of votes between the two candidates will be disqualified and the candidate with the highest number of votes between the two candidates will be seated on the board.

D. Election of Directors

1. The Nominating Committee will determine the design and the timetable for the distribution and return of ballots.
2. Each Member library shall receive one ballot with all the names of the candidates with instructions for casting the ballot. The individual designated by the Member will cast the ballot.
3. When the votes are tallied, the candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes in his/her category is elected to the vacant seat(s). In case of a tie, the seat holder will be decided by a flip of the coin.

E. Term

The term of office of Directors shall be three years, but no Director shall serve more than a total of six years unless two years have elapsed since his/her sixth year of service. The terms of office of one-third of the Directors shall expire each year. The term of office begins with the first Board meeting after the start of the fiscal year.

F. Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur between elections, The System Board will appoint an individual with the qualifications to fill the specific type of vacant seat as described in Article 5, Section B 1-6.

G. Disqualifications

Directors are expected to fulfill the duties required of them by the nature of their office. The System Board by a Majority vote may, with a quorum present, declare a System Board position vacant if a Director fails to attend two (2) unexcused Board meetings during the System year.

Should a Director no longer be an eligible elector within the geographic area of the system, or leave the local position by virtue of which he/she was eligible, nominated and elected, the seat shall be declared vacant. This shall not apply when the Director changes positions within the local entity or is still otherwise qualified to represent the type of seat for which the Director was elected.

H. Meetings

The System Board shall meet a minimum of nine (9) times a year. Directors may attend meetings electronically consistent with established Board policy and the Open Meetings Act. A simple majority of the Directors will constitute a quorum.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon the request of three Directors upon five days written notice, for the transaction of such business as may be stated in such notice.

I. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors

The powers and duties of the System Board shall be in accordance with the Illinois Library System Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated there under.

The Board of Directors will conduct an evaluation of the Executive Director annually at an appropriate time.

J. Officers

The Officers of the Board shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Officers of the Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. The President will preside at all meetings of the Board; shall appoint any necessary committees; shall sign official documents; and, shall assume such other powers that meet with the consent of the Board.
2. The Vice President will preside at meetings in the absence of the President; shall in the case of the resignation of the President or the inability of the President to perform the duties of the office assume the President's responsibilities until the election of a new President; and, shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
3. The Secretary will keep minutes of all Board meetings; shall sign documents and correspondence in the name of the Board when so directed by the President and/or the Board; and, shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
4. The Treasurer will discharge the responsibilities placed upon that office by law, oversee the fiscal affairs and activities of the System; report regularly to the Board of these matters, and perform such other duties as the Board may direct. Before entering the office, the treasurer is required to give a bond in an amount set by the Board in compliance with law, and the cost of such to be paid by the System.

K. Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee will propose the slate of Officers of the System Board. The election of officers shall be held at the first meeting of the System Board each year. The officers shall be elected for one (1) year, and no officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms in one office. A term of six (6) months or more shall be considered a full term. The term of office begins with the first Board meeting after the start of the fiscal year.

L. Vacancies in Officers Roles

In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President, and the System Board shall elect one of the remaining Directors to the office of Vice-President for the remainder of the term. In the event one of the other offices becomes vacant, the System Board shall elect one of the remaining Directors to fill the remainder of the term.

M. Committees

1. Executive Committee

- a. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer together with one additional Director elected by the Board of Directors shall constitute the Executive Committee. The designation of such committee, and the delegation thereto of authority, shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any Member thereof, of any responsibility imposed by law.
- b. The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise the authority of the Board of Directors as specifically and expressly delegated by the action of the Board of Directors.
- c. A majority of the Directors on the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- d. The President of the Board of Directors shall preside at the meetings of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside.

2. Other committees

- a. Committees of the Board will be appointed where there is a need in the areas of Board operations, Board policy, and activities outside the responsibilities of the Executive Director as chief executive and administrative officer. The Board of Directors may establish ad hoc and advisory committees as it sees fit.

N. Economic Interest

No member of the RAILS Board of Directors may profit personally, either directly or indirectly, for any business connected with the system.

Each member of the RAILS Board of Directors shall file a Statement of Economic Interest as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act.

Each member of the RAILS Board of Directors shall also file a Conflict of Interest Form *annually or within 60 days of assumption of office*, certifying that the member has no prohibited conflict of interest with RAILS and disclosing any personal or business relationships that reasonably could produce a direct or indirect conflict involving RAILS. The Conflict of Interest Form should be filed with the RAILS Executive Director.

The members of the RAILS Board of Directors shall serve without compensation, but their actual and necessary expenses shall be paid or reimbursed by the system.

O. Indemnification

Members of the RAILS Board of Directors shall be indemnified as described in the RAILS Indemnification Policy.

Article 6 System Executive Director

- A. The Board of Directors shall, by resolution, appoint an Executive Director of the System who shall meet any and all requirements, including having a master's degree from an American Library Association-accredited library education program and at least five years postgraduate employment, including at least two years in library administrative experience, as required by the Board and by Illinois law and regulation. (75 ILCS 10/7).
- B. Responsibilities of the Executive Director:
 - 1. General administration of the System.
 - 2. Provision of professional advice to the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Authority and responsibility for staff recruitment, evaluations, promotions, discipline management and terminations as well as all other personnel matters in accordance with System policies, except that the Executive Director's authority to hire, fix the compensation, and terminate employees is subject to the approval of the RAILS Board of Directors.
 - 4. Implementation of policies, objectives, and plans of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Executive Director shall be responsible directly to the Board of Directors.

Article 7 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the System shall begin with July 1 and end with June 30, following the applicable rules and regulations of the State of Illinois.

Article 8 Amendments

Proposed Bylaw changes can originate from the System Board or from the Membership of the System. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted for consideration by the System Board at a meeting at which notice of the proposed bylaw amendment has been provided or listed on the meeting agenda. A bylaw amendment may not be voted upon until a subsequent meeting of the Board. Changes to the bylaws must be approved by 2/3's vote of the Directors attending the meeting at which they are considered and must be submitted for approval to the Illinois State Library before they shall become effective.

Notwithstanding the above two-step process, the requirement that action on a bylaw amendment be deferred to a second meeting can be waived, and a bylaw amendment approved at the meeting at which it is initiated, if the bylaw amendment (1) is listed on the agenda for action at the first meeting and (2) is approved by all directors attending the first meeting.