



- Designed to help the library community quickly convey information to the public during the stay-at-home order and as we look toward re-opening.
- With most Illinois library buildings still mostly or completely closed to in-person public services, it's more important than ever to convey the message that libraries are still working to serve our communities. Our public, as well as decision-makers, need to know that we're bigger than our buildings.
- Library trustees are key to helping deliver this message in communities, and to municipal leaders and stakeholders.
- Talking points, communication tools such as sample letter to the Mayor, social media images, press release templates, etc; sample reopening plans; articles to help make the case for your libraries; and more.



Illinois Library Association



# Selected Talking Points

- Although the building is closed, services continue!
- Library staff continues to work through the crisis, offering a range of services including e-books, audiobooks, online learning and tutoring sites for homework help, streaming story-times and online book discussions, access to skill building activities, access to tele-health resources, and trustworthy public health information.
- Library leaders across the state are working to find the best method to reopen doors to the public, when it is safe to do so and in accordance with the orders of the governor.



# Selected Talking Points

- Libraries that lay off or furlough staff now will have communities less prepared for any subsequent outbreaks of COVID-19 that many public health officials fear will come later in 2020.
- Layoffs and furloughs will have a domino effect on local economies. Because library staff are consumers and residents in their communities, eliminating their paychecks will mean that local businesses and stores will incur less revenue, increasing instability in the community.
- Layoffs and furloughs throw more people into an already overwhelmed unemployment system. It's fiscally responsible for communities to keep their libraries whole.



## Selected Talking Points

- As Illinois begins to "re-open," libraries will be among the first agencies communities look to for assistance—finding jobs, filling out state and federal aid forms, etc. Keeping staff on the payroll allows them to prepare libraries for these contingencies so they can hit the ground running.
- Library directors are taking a long-term view of the quarantine and making plans for the future. If we help Illinois libraries now, they will be ready to help Illinois residents with economic recovery in the near future.

**Much more at [ila.org/advocacy/bigger-than-a-building](https://ila.org/advocacy/bigger-than-a-building)**