

RAILS Report

RAILS FY 2021 Budget

We are currently working on our FY 2021 budget and plan of service, both of which are due to the State Library on June 1. Per usual, they told us to assume the same funding as in this current fiscal year. However, given the pandemic we should be prepared for changes – reductions – as the year progresses and the state revenue picture becomes clearer.

COVID-19

Like every other organization, we are pretty much consumed with issues related to the pandemic. RAILS buildings are closed and delivery is suspended at least until the end of April. We have held two special member updates just to talk about COVID-19, and we anticipate more in the near future.

We are part of group that has been formed by IMLS that includes consortia, large libraries and other library organizations to develop authoritative standards for the safe cleaning of library materials, a single point of contact for distribution and access to information and staff training in how to safely and completely clean materials and equipment.

We cancelled our board meeting in March, but we will hold our April board meeting as scheduled on April 25, via Zoom. We will also resume our usual board committee meetings and the board election will proceed as planned.

I will be reaching out the Greg McCormick, Leslie Bednar and Anne Craig soon to discuss the restart of delivery statewide. Obviously, it has to all be closely coordinated. We have some concerns about staff returning given the overwhelmingly part-time and retired/second career nature of the delivery staff.

Zoom access for networking groups

We will begin providing zoom account access for RAILS networking groups. We had first been asked about this during the fall; the pandemic has really heightened the need for groups to connect virtually so we are in the process of implementing this access.

Census Activities

The RAILS Census project continues despite the suspension of library services. Subrecipients have been extremely creative as they have pivoted quickly to use social media and virtual services to reach out to the hard to count communities.