

---

**DATE:** April 17, 2026  
**TO:** RAILS Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Monica Harris, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Strategic Plan Update

We will include a brief strategic plan update each month for the RAILS Board of Directors as we move through the process for the remainder of the year.

Staff and trustees at RAILS member libraries are invited to take a [strategic planning survey](#) that will help to inform the direction for our next plan. All responses are due by Wednesday, April 22. RAILS Board are also encouraged to complete the survey. A separate survey for staff, which will include the opportunity for feedback on the last strategic plan, will be shared soon. All feedback will be compiled as part of the report that will be shared with the strategic planning steering committee in May.

Interviews with leadership at 12 Illinois partner organizations are currently underway and we are soon to begin with a series of focus groups which are separated by library type. Focus groups include: Small publics, large publics, academics, schools, specials, and RAILS stakeholders (former committee and board members). These will be completed by our consultant, Cindy Fesemyer, in April and the data from these meetings will also be compiled and shared with the steering committee.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 18. We are also looking forward to our Board Strategic Planning Workshop on Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm in Burr Ridge.

We look forward to discussing more at our meeting on Friday.