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**DATE:** May 15, 2026  
**TO:** RAILS Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Monica Harris, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** New Member Application

RAILS Member Engagement Specialist Jessica Silva will present the new member application for the Japanese American Service Center for your approval at our May meeting. The application is included in your packet.

As a reminder, it is stated in our [Bylaws](#) under Article 4 Membership in the System, subsection A Eligibility that:

*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.*

We look forward to sharing more information about these potential members at the May meeting.



### Library Summary

Institution name: Japanese American Service Committee

Library name: Legacy Center

Library type: Special

City: Chicago, IL

Primary library contact:

Recommended board action: Full Membership

Library holdings: 960 books, over 200 archival holdings

OCLC member (yes or no): No

Online catalog (OPAC): Yes

eRead Illinois member (yes or no): No

### Description:

The Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) Legacy Center is a special library in Chicago, IL. The center is about to celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have over 80 employees, and they offer services such as adult day care and home care, language and cultural programming for adults and children, and preschool cultural classes. The archive/library legacy center was established in 1999, and historically, they have had a full-time archivist/legacy center director. Their collection includes family collections, letters and correspondence, photo albums, artifacts like uniforms, and hand-carved artifacts like musical instruments from internment camps. They document the lives of Japanese and Japanese Americans in Chicago and have organizational records dating back to 1946. Following internment, 20k Japanese and Japanese Americans resettled in Chicago, and the JASC served families by helping them find jobs, housing, and social services. The JASC Legacy Center is interested in participating in OCLC and pursuing grant opportunities, and they are currently further organizing their reading room, making their collection more discoverable, and revising their website.