

Cook County Digital Navigator Network



COOK COUNTY
DIGITAL EQUITY

RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

Cook County Digital Navigator Network Guiding Team Application

This worksheet is available to use as a working draft. Please submit responses [via the online form](#).

Application deadline: Friday, October 16

For more information: please contact RAILS Director of Technology Services Anne Slaughter,
anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org

Contact

1. First name
2. Last name
3. Email
4. Job Title
5. Department
6. Library or Organization you are representing (Please include the full name of your library or organization with no acronyms or abbreviations)

Participation Commitment

7. Please confirm your availability to attend at least 75% of Guiding Team meetings, including:
 - a. Kickoff meeting on Monday, November 9, 3:00-5:00 pm
 - b. Monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday, 3:00-4:30 pm (beginning in December 2026 or January 2027)
8. The Guiding Team has an important role in co-designing the network and helping build community. We count on each member's active participation in the process, via scheduled meetings and limited work between meetings, and respect that individual expertise and availability will vary. Please confirm your commitment to the following:
 - a. Synchronous work – Share ideas and candid feedback in meeting discussions and activities, verbally and in writing. Attend at least one in-person gathering during the year, and possible additional listening sessions or other optional activities.
 - b. Asynchronous work – Review and provide feedback on program materials. Share messaging with colleagues and professional networks. Gather input from colleagues and share information from libraries.

- c. Timely communications – Respond to Guiding Team meeting invitations, communicate absences, and participate in follow-up. Use the collaborative workspace to engage between meetings.

Library Support

- 9. To acknowledge the organizational support and staff time required for Guiding Team participation, libraries will receive a stipend. Please confirm that your manager and/or your library's Executive Director supports:
 - a. Attending at least 75% of scheduled meetings, including access to a device with a camera and microphone in a space that permits verbal engagement, and
 - b. Timely participation in team communications and asynchronous work.

Experience

- 10. Briefly describe the community or communities you've served and the barriers they've experienced in accessing and using technology and digital tools. In your role, how have you worked with these communities to develop solutions or adapt your library's services to be more accessible to their needs?
- 11. Briefly describe a collaborative project you've worked on in your professional community or library involving digital access or other relevant services. How did you work with others to build connections, bridge differences, and contribute to the project's success?
- 12. What does digital equity mean to you as a library worker and/or in the library services you provide? How do you ensure equitable service across a diverse community with a range of needs and perspectives?
- 13. What are your hopes and ideas for the Cook County Digital Navigator Network? How might you contribute your specific skills, abilities, and experiences to the work of the Guiding Team?