



Community Needs Response Plan

2022-2025

Approved by the Library Board on July 7, 2022

317 MAIN STREET • STAPLETON, NE 69163 • 308.636.2343

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Logan County Library Plan Overview | 1 |
| Logan County Community Assessment | 1 |
| Library S.W.O.T Analysis | 2 |
| Community Needs, Goals and Objectives | 4 |
| Evaluation | 6 |

Logan County Library Plan Overview

Logan County Library staff, board members, Friends of the Library, and community patrons all contributed to the development of this community needs response plan. The Library Board and Library Director will review this plan annually or as needed.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Logan County Library in Stapleton, Nebraska is to provide the people of the Logan County area with equal access to information and to assist in their lifelong pursuit of learning and adventure. The function of the library is to assemble, organize, and preserve printed and non-printed material within its physical and financial means.

Logan County Community Assessment

Community Profile

Location

The Logan County Library is located in the Logan County Courthouse in Stapleton, Nebraska. Stapleton is located 30 miles north of North Platte, NE and 90 miles south of Valentine, NE, at the Junction of Highways 83 and 92 West.

Population

The library services the only two villages in Logan County– Stapleton (pop. 267) and Gandy (pop. 34). The total population of Logan County is 716. 22.4% of Logan County are 18 or younger, while 23.6% are 65 or older.

Education

There is one K-12 school in Logan County, as well as one preschool. During the 2020-2021 school year, Stapleton Public Schools enrolled 192 students, while preschool enrollment was 16. Stapleton Schools was awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award in 2016. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. 23.2% of the population of Logan County has a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 95.1% have a high school diploma or higher.

Race and Ethnicity

The predominant race in Logan County is one race, white only which is 96.5%, while 5.7% of that group identifies as Hispanic.

Employment

Of those in Logan County who are 16 years and older, 64.7% are in the civilian labor force. Being a rural county, with vast agricultural land, many families are self-employed, farmers, or ranchers. Another significant chunk of our community commutes an average of 22.8 minutes to neighboring counties. These individuals may not be reflected in the employment percentage above. 9.3% of the Logan County population has an income below the poverty level.

Cultural Summary

The Stapleton Chamber of Commerce has over 50 active members from the area. The village itself has many businesses and amenities helping it become a self-sustaining, rural community. A cooperative-owned grocery store, local cafe, Vet's club, liquor store, and convenience store/gas station provides the community with food, dining, and beverage options. Additional Brick and Mortar businesses within Stapleton city limits include a bank, accountant, feed store, hardware store, two boutiques, a newspaper, fitness center, antique store, paint-your-own ceramics shop, and three lodging options for out of town guests. Logan County has a nine-hole golf course, a park with sand volleyball court and newly added playground equipment, and three separate locations for RV hook-ups. Three churches service the county along with various community groups including: 4-H, youth groups, and book clubs.

Library S.W.O.T Analysis

Internal Strengths

- A newly constructed large metal sign with letter board that we use for hours and activities, was installed May 2020, just outside of our location to clearly identify the library for our patrons. The location of the library inside of the courthouse had been an issue without the sign to identify our location.
- We offer our youth in the area story time during the school year, once a week, as well as our Summer Reading Program in the Summer for a month.
- The library offers free wi-fi, is handicap accessible, and has an updated computer with software and hardware suited for our population.

- The collection is well maintained, new books added monthly, and weeded each year before our annual book sale each June.
- We have an active social media presence on Facebook and publish in our local Newspaper to keep our community informed on activities and what we can offer.
- The current staff and volunteers work and complement each other well. They also ensure checks and balances of the library are in place with a committed board.
- The library is fortunate to be involved with an active Friends of the Library organization that supplements our programming/services and special needs budget.

Internal Weaknesses

- Shared bathrooms with the courthouse are not handicap accessible.
- The age and construction of the shared building limits possibilities for expansion and inclusion of new areas, making our space very limited.
- We currently have limited hours, open only two days a week because of the small size of our community. At this time, we do not feel it would be cost effective to be open more frequently.
- The library is below average in visitors and circulation.

External Opportunities

- Our library was awarded two improvement grants in 2021 to improve the aesthetics and function of our limited library space. This will allow us to purchase new desks, tables, chairs, and added access to a Cricut machine for our patrons.
- We offer inter-library loans, and are part of the Overdrive program offering e-book access to our patrons for free.
- We offer our space as a meeting space for book clubs, activities provided by Friends of the Library, and other various meeting/activity needs within our community.
- Along with Friends of the Library, we work closely with our Chamber of Commerce to be active in all activities they host throughout the year.

External Threats

- While our community is supportive of our library, numbers are down and traffic is low, not just for circulation but also attendance at activities hosted.
- Most young adults in the area leave for college and do not return because of lack of employment in the area.
- We are a one room library, located within the Logan County Courthouse, which limits any remodel and expansion ideas we may have for the library expanding.

Community Needs, Goals and Objectives

Community Need #1

Our library would like to offer more family engagement opportunities for the surrounding community and patrons.

Goal

Interact with community organizations to host various fun activities to create interest in our library and bring individuals together.

Objectives

1. Collaborate with the local school to host literature based family nights.
2. Utilize Humanities Nebraska to have speakers or entertainers to come in and host events.
3. Library can host literature based movie nights in the community, either at the library or at a location in the community.
4. Library can introduce game days and other activities throughout the year to bring patrons together.

Community Need #2

There is a strong need to maintain the collaboration between the library and the community.

Goal

By setting aside time throughout the year to attend events hosted by the town, we can interact, involve, and promote ourselves to others.

Objectives

1. Host a book sale on community garage sale day.
2. Set up a booth at Christmas Around Town, and offer crafts for youth and adults.
3. Set up a display promoting the library during the Logan county Fair.
4. Participate in Trunk and Treat in the community.
5. Be flexible to participate in village wide activities and events in our community.

Community Need #3

The library's furniture is outdated, making teens and youth skeptical to willingly unwind in our space.

Goal

Creating a more welcoming and updated environment by purchasing more modern furniture, electronics, and toys, that will encourage both young and old patrons to lounge in our area.

Objectives

1. Purchase new furniture for the library, including desks, chairs, tables and childrens furniture.
2. Purchase a cricut and accessories for patrons to use.
3. Improve library aesthetics with fresh paint, throw rugs, curtains etc.
4. Upgrade our outdated computer with a new laptop.
5. Create a lego work station for the youth in the community.

Evaluation

The Logan County Library Board and Director will work together to continue developing and implementing the initiatives proposed in this community needs response plan. Each year the board will review the plan, its goals and objectives, to determine what has been accomplished, and/or additional goals that need to be modified or added to better serve the community's needs.