




Pinellas Public Library Cooperative

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TO: Bill Berger, Budget Director
Office of Management and Budget
Pinellas County Government

FROM: Cheryl Morales, Executive Director

DATE: March 12, 2021 

RE: Transmittal of Preliminary FY'22 Budget Information

Department Description

The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC) is a non-profit organization that facilitates cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of resources, programs, services, and expertise among its member libraries. PPLC was the first Library Cooperative formed in the state of Florida and was founded in 1989 through an Interlocal Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and Municipalities with Public Libraries that are members of the PPLC. The purpose of forming the cooperative was to extend public library services to the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and to municipalities that do not have library services. PPLC receives and disburses funds, maintains a shared library automation system, maintains a shared materials delivery system, and facilitates collective purchasing for cost savings. In 1992, PPLC established the Pinellas Talking Book Library to provide library services to the blind and physically handicapped. The Deaf Literacy Center was incorporated into the cooperative in 2001, to serve the emerging deaf community. PPLC facilitates community partnerships, builds relationships, markets library services, and advocates on the local, state, and federal levels in support of library services to improve the lives of Pinellas County residents.

Vision: PPLC connects communities.

Mission: PPLC facilitates a common library experience across the county while preserving the unique attributes of individual libraries.

Program Review

Public Libraries across the globe are responsive to community needs. Public Libraries in Pinellas County predict community needs, and proactively create dynamic ways to interact with the community. Providing materials in a wide variety of formats and platforms and staying ahead of technological trends are some of the ways libraries remain relevant to their users.

Alternative Program Delivery Options

During the 2020-21 Covid-19 pandemic and “Safer at Home” Order forced PPLC Member Libraries to close to the public, many lessons were learned. Moving into an uncertain future, libraries will continue to develop their new and innovative methods in providing services to Pinellas County residents. Virtual program delivery, curbside pick-up of library items, take-home kits for children, and promotion of electronic resources are some of the ways libraries are moving into the future.

Libraries closed in mid-March 2020 and reopened with strict guidelines in June 2020 -with some libraries re-opening in October 2020. As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc in our community, library hours and services continue to shift, and temporary library closings are not uncommon.

Doing things alignment with Strategic Plan

County Goal: “Deliver First Class Services to the Public”

Performance Measures:

- Materials Circulation -loaning
- Registered borrowers
- Library visits -physical and virtual
- Research assistance

Pinellas County’s public libraries are delivering first class services through the materials they loan, and the services they provide. Having a central library as the anchor of each community gives people a place to come together and share ideas. In an age where human interaction is being minimized to streamline services, social skills are on the decline.

Through innovative approaches developed in our libraries, the community can connect in ways that grows the economy. “Borrowing” seeds and garden tools and participating in a free gardening courses are ways a library enables sustainable living practices. Providing a variety of materials in electronic formats enables libraries to increase their collections while keeping building expansion costs at bay.

County Goal: “Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality”

Performance Measures:

- Classes and Events
- Participation at Classes and Events

By partnering with local agencies, many services are available to library card holders for free. A partnership with the State Library provides a free online platform for adults seeking a career and/or a high school diploma. Job seekers use libraries to learn about job opportunities, how to land a job through resume building and interviewing skills. Libraries provide a wide array of tools to help grow the economy in Pinellas County. Through early literacy, English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and career opportunities Pinellas County residents are lifelong learners more equipped to function academically, economically, and socially.

Cost saving Opportunities

Investments can create cost savings. In 2021 PPLC’s Board Finance Committee is maximizing financial return on long- and short-term investments. Policies have been approved, and a new Financial Advisor has been selected. PPLC plans to use interest on investments to subsidize operational expenditures.

Maintenance of County Funding

PPLC requests a continuation of funding from the Library MSTU (ordinance 1989-5 /Pinellas County Code 78-2) at the current rate of one-half mill for the purposes of providing free access to library services to persons residing in unincorporated areas of the county.

Additional Items:

- PPLC Organizational Chart
- FY'22 Budget Performance Measures
- FY'20 Circulation by city
- 2 minute video: Library Services for residents of Unincorporated Pinellas County:

[\(6731\) Library Services for residents of unincorporated Pinellas County - YouTube](#)

