Summary of ARPA Discussion

March 29, 2021

# What do community members need?

* Help with child care
* Rental assistance
* Healthy snacks for kids who are suffering from food insecurity
* Infrastructure
* Small business support
* Computer access outside the library
* Help with finding a job
* Help with transportation
* Hand sanitizing and masks throughout the community
* Help with address meth addiction and its impact
* Makerspace for community education
* Help with housing crisis
* Information il/literacy

# What do libraries need?

* Heating and cooling for the building
* Help with library security
* Hot water heater
* Building/facilities assessment
* Help with serving those experience homelessness or who are struggling with mental health problems
* Ability to keep the library open while school is closed
* Tech support for libraries
* Additional internet capacity
* Upgrading furniture – easier to clean
* More staff
* Capital and grounds improvement for safety and functionality
* Maximize mobile and digital services
* Efficiency assessment
* Continue hot spots

# Talking Points

* Building/facility needs
  + Usage has changed; how can library spaces be modified to meet the changing needs of our community.
  + An accessible ADA compliant library welcomes those who may have mobility or other disabilities that keeps them from being able to use the library. It levels the playing field and in creating such a useful, accessible space it welcomes all members of a community and often benefits everyone – not just those with disabilities.
  + New furniture that is easier to clean contributes to a welcoming environment that people want to be in. It provides nourishment by giving people a comfortable place to rest, to read, to learn, and to visit with others. It creates an oasis in a world filled with stress.
* Mental health/social support in the library
  + People are coming to libraries seeking different types of assistance; or just a safe place to go if they are having trouble.
  + Librarians aren’t trained in how to manage the behaviors that people with mental health challenges exhibit.
  + A trained social worker creates safety for everyone using the library and de-escalates challenging situations. The social worker provides assistance and compassion for those struggling with mental health issues. This ripples out into our communities by helping the individual learn how to manage their health and behavior in a way that creates a safer environment for everyone.
* Internet access/tech support
  + People use internet/computer services every day. The internet is critical for employment, assistance, completing forms, learning, and connecting with others.
  + Online tech support or in-person assistance that answers community member questions quickly allows people to move past computer problems. It allows people to find the information they need and find solutions to problems they face in their own lives – whether it’s a need for a job, upskilling, or connecting with family members or health care providers.