

**SUPERIORLAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE**

**PLAN OF SERVICE**

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**XI. PLAN APPROVAL & REVISIONS**

**XII. ADOPTION DATE**

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**MISSION**      The Superiorland Library Cooperative develops and sustains innovative programs that are cost effective because libraries collaborate in shared, economy-of-scale activities. Cooperation among members makes it possible to grow and sustain library programs that improve the quality of library service in every community.

The Cooperative's "*Strategic Plan and Annual Schedule of Services and Fees*" supplements the Plan of Service. This Strategic Plan is reviewed annually and revised, if appropriate, by the Advisory Council of librarians and the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

I.      NAME

The name of this library cooperative will be **Superiorland Library Cooperative**.

II.      AUTHORITY

The authority for the plan of service for the Superiorland Library Cooperative is based on 1977 PA 89.

III.      HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters for the Cooperative will be located at 1615 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, MI.

IV.      MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Superiorland Library Cooperative is available to any legally established public library that meets minimum qualifications for State Aid to Public Libraries, as set forth in 1977 PA 89, in the library's last complete fiscal year before 1 October of the year before distribution.

A. Public Library Requirements

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In addition to meeting the minimum qualifications for State Aid to Public Libraries, full members of Superiorland Library Cooperative will do all the following:

- \* Participate in the development of cooperative library plans.
- \* Loan materials to other libraries participating in the Cooperative.
- \* Maintain an open door policy to other residents of the state, as provided by Section 9 of Article 8 of the State Constitution of 1963.

The Cooperative may waive the requirement for a legally established public library to meet minimum qualifications of State Aid to Public Libraries if the library agrees to purchase services from the Cooperative at a per capita rate equivalent to that of other full members.

#### B. Membership Process

The local library's governing board will adopt a resolution requesting the library's membership in Superiorland Library Cooperative. A copy of the resolution, certified by an officer of the local board, will be filed with the Cooperative Board. Within sixty (60) days after filing, the Cooperative Board will accept or show reason for denial of the request for membership. When the Cooperative Board accepts the library's resolution, the acceptance resolution will be endorsed by an officer of the Cooperative Board. Copies of the membership resolution and acceptance resolution will be filed with the Department of History, Art, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan]. New members may join the Cooperative upon approval of a majority of the Cooperative Board. A majority in this case means five members.

#### C. Withdrawal Process

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A local library board must adopt a resolution in order to withdraw from membership in the Cooperative. Copies of the resolution, certified by an officer of the local board, must be filed with the Cooperative Board and the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan] at least six (6) months prior to October 1 of the Cooperative's next fiscal year. Membership will not terminate before the end of the Cooperative's current fiscal year, unless an earlier termination date is mutually agreed upon.

State Aid fees for cooperative services will be owed for the full year in which the library terminates its membership. Within sixty (60) days after the withdrawal resolution is filed, the Cooperative Board will notify the member library and the Library of Michigan that the membership will terminate when all obligations have been met satisfactorily.

If the Cooperative Board wishes to end its membership agreement with a library, it must adopt a resolution to do so. The same length of notice, filing requirements, and fulfillment of obligations must be met as those outlined above for members that withdraw voluntarily. Copies of the resolution must be filed with the .Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan]. Membership will not terminate before the end of the Cooperative's current fiscal year, unless an earlier termination date is mutually agreed upon.

#### D. Associate Library Membership

Associate membership will be open to any non-profit library that does not qualify for full membership, provided:

1. The library's governing board submits a written request for associate membership; and,
2. The Cooperative Board approves the request for membership.

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Associate members are eligible to use certain services offered to full members at annual rates approved by the Cooperative Board. Associate members are entitled to appoint a non-voting representative on the Cooperative's Advisory Council of Librarians.

#### V. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Superiorland Library Cooperative is committed to resolving disputes at the local level. The following procedures will be followed:

1. The director of the public library concerned will meet with the director of the cooperative and attempt in good faith to resolve any problems.

2. If a resolution of the problem is still not possible, the board of each library concerned, following a review of the issue, will petition the cooperative director and board in writing for redress of the matters in dispute specifying the remedies sought.

3. The cooperative director will present the petition to the Cooperative Board within 90 days along with his or her recommendations. The cooperative director will report the Board's decision to all parties concerned, promptly and in writing.

When a dispute cannot be resolved on the local level, the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan] may hear the case. The decision of the Department [or parent agency] shall be final.

#### VI. GOVERNING BOARD

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The Board of Directors will manage Superiorland Library Cooperative and make such by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with Public Act 89, 1977 as may be necessary, none of which will be deemed to deprive any local board of any of its powers or property.

A. Selection of Board Members

The governing body of the Cooperative will be a Board of Directors consisting of nine (9) voting members appointed by member library boards. Any adult resident of the Cooperative's service area, who is not a Cooperative employee or an immediate family member of a Cooperative employee, and who has been appointed by a member library board to represent that respective library, shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

B. Board Member Election

All member library boards may appoint one representative to the Board. The nine (9) voting members will be determined annually by election. Voting board members shall serve three-year terms and will be elected from three Groups with an attempt to equalize population served among the Groups. If a library leaves the cooperative or a new library joins the cooperative, the Groups may be redistributed over the next three (3) fiscal years as needed to maintain similar populations served among Groups. In such cases, a committee shall be formed to consider the redistribution. The Groups and number of voting board members for each Group shall be as follows:

**Group #1**

Number of voting representatives: Three (3)

Number of libraries represented: Eleven (11)

Libraries represented: Alanson Area Public Library, Calumet Public-School Library, Crystal Falls District Community Library, Curtis Public Library Escanaba Public Library, Lake Linden-Hubbell School-Public

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Library, Ironwood Carnegie Library, Manistique School & Public Library, Republic-Michigamme School-Public Library, Superior District Library, West Iron District Library,

**Group #2**

Number of voting representatives: Three (3)

Number of libraries represented: Twelve (12)

Libraries represented: Forsyth Township Public Library, Ishpeming Public Library, L'Anse Area School & Public Library, Mackinac Island Public Library, McMillan Township Library, Menominee County Library, Negaunee Public Library, Osceola Township School-Public Library, Peter White Public Library, Portage Lake District Library, Richmond Township Library, St. Ignace Public Library

**Group #3**

Number of voting representatives: Three (3)

Number of libraries represented: Eleven (12)

Libraries represented: Alpena George N. Fletcher Public Library, Bessemer Public Library, Carp Lake Township Library, Crawford County Library, Dickinson County Library, Gladstone School-Public Library, Munising School-Public Library, Ontonagon Public Library, Roscommon Area District Library, Spies Public Library, Wakefield Public Library, Whitefish Township Community Library

Each Group shall elect a board member every fiscal year. Terms shall be three (3) years and elections for partial terms may be held by Groups as needed. Library boards within each Group may nominate the representative from their library or another library within the Group for annual open positions.

Nominations must be made before the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal year and reported to the Cooperative. During the first year of this reorganization, each Group will elect three (3)

representatives who will serve 1, 2, and 3-year terms respectively. Terms of service for the voting members of the Board of Directors shall begin at the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the fiscal year in which they were elected, and run through the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in September  
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of the following year. This changeover at the end of the Annual Meeting allows for the convening of an Organizational Meeting for the new fiscal year Board of Directors immediately following the Annual Meeting of the closing fiscal year. The Organizational Meeting agenda may be limited to the nomination and election of officers and committee assignments. There shall not be a limit on the number of terms a representative may serve if nominated and elected by a Group to the cooperative board.

Nominations shall be made from the pool of appointed library representatives within a Group. If no nominations can be made within the Group, then the election results from the remaining Groups may be used to select members until there are nine voting board members.

The Cooperative shall prepare ballots and distribute to the member libraries in each Group at the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. Member library boards shall cast their vote and report to the Cooperative before the Cooperative's annual meeting, held in September. The nominee from each Group receiving the most votes within the group shall be elected to the Board of Directors and will serve a 3-year term.

The absence of a voting board member from three consecutive cooperative board meetings will be cause for terminating the voting rights for that board member. The Group will be notified when its representative has missed two consecutive board meetings. If the voting member from that group does not attend the next cooperative board meeting, the Group will have 60 days to elect a new member; the Cooperative will assist with the ballot creation and collection as needed.

#### C. Meeting Dates

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The Governing Board will meet at least four times a year at times on dates to be decided annually by the board. The annual meeting of the cooperative board will be held in September. Meetings of the cooperative board and its committees will comply with the Open Meetings Act.

#### D. Board Members Duties

1. The Cooperative Board will have all of the duties and responsibilities as stated and defined in Public Act 89, 1977, including the following:
  - a. Operate the cooperative library and manage and control the cooperative library's funds and property.
  - b. Select a Chairperson.
  - c. Establish, maintain, and operate cooperative services for public libraries in the cooperative library's area.
  - d. Appoint a director or coordinator to administer the cooperative library, fix that person's compensation, and delegate to that person those powers the delegation of which are in the best interest of the cooperative library, including the power to hire necessary employees
  - e. Acquire books, periodicals, library materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property by purchase, installment purchase contract, or lease with or without an option to purchase or enter into a loan agreement and borrow money for that purpose.
  - f. Erect buildings or acquire real property, including buildings and fixtures, by purchase, land contract, installment purchase contract, or lease with or without an option to purchase, or enter into a loan agreement and borrow money for that purpose.
  - g. Enter into contracts to receive service from or give service to libraries in the state, including public, school, academic, cooperative, or special libraries, and political subdivisions of the state.
  - h. Exclusively control expenditures for the cooperative library.
  - i. Accept gifts and donations of property for the benefit of the cooperative library.

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- j. Adopt By-laws and rules not inconsistent with Public Act 89 for its own government and do those things necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.
2. The Cooperative Board will follow the requirements of 1977 PA 89 with regard to any installment purchase contract, land contract, loan agreement, or lease purchase contract.
  3. The Cooperative Board will provide for an annual financial audit by an independent auditor. This audit will be filed within 12 months following the close of the fiscal year with the Department of HAL [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan]. If the annual financial audit report discloses a deficit or material deficiency the cooperative library shall submit a corrective action plan for review and approval by the Department [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan]. If a deficit is disclosed, the corrective action plan shall include a deficit elimination plan and proof that the plan was filed with the Department of Treasury, as required by section 21 of 1971 PA 140, MCL 141.9214.
  4. The Cooperative will maintain current fidelity bond coverage and file annual verification of coverage with the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan].
  5. **It is expressly understood that the Cooperative Board has no jurisdiction over the property and management of the member libraries.**
  6. The Cooperative Board will conform to requirements for the investment of surplus funds, as provided in Public Act 20 of 1943 (as amended).

## VII. ADVISORY COUNCIL

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A. Advisory Council Representation

1. A Council representing all of the full member libraries of the cooperative will be formed to advise, evaluate and recommend action for library service to the director and the Board of Directors.
2. Each full member library has one vote. Each library's representative on the Council will be the library director, who may designate a staff member to vote at a Council meeting.
3. Appointments to the Advisory Council will be reviewed annually.

B. Advisory Council Meeting Dates

The Advisory Council will meet at least one time a year.

C. Advisory Council Responsibilities

1. The Advisory Council will advise the Director and Board on issues pertaining to the Cooperative. The Council will review the annual proposed schedule of services and make recommendations to the Cooperative Board.
2. The Cooperative Director will serve as an ex-officio member of ad hoc committees.
3. A task force can be formed by the Advisory Council to study/review a specific objective.
4. The Cooperative Board makes the final decision on all matters pertaining to governance.

VIII. FUNDING

A. The fiscal year of the Cooperative is 1 October to 30 September.

B. Cooperative State Aid.

1. State Aid to Public Libraries, authorized by Public Act 89, 1977, Section 13 and Section 16(4), will be used for any library purpose approved by the Cooperative Board.
  - a. Member libraries and associate members may contract with the Cooperative for services.

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b. Other 501( c)3 non-profit agencies, non-profit libraries, cooperatives, and political subdivisions of the state may contract with the Cooperative for services.

2. The Cooperative will apply for State Aid before February 1 of each year.
3. Regular financial statements will be available to the Board and Advisory Council.
4. The Cooperative will comply with governmental accounting principles.
5. There will be an annual independent audit of the Cooperative with a formal report to the Board. A copy of the annual audit will be filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit Division and the Department of History Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan] within 12 months of the end of its fiscal year.

IX. BUDGET PROCESS

The Cooperative director will develop a tentative budget for the next fiscal year and present the budget to the Cooperative Board at their annual meeting. The Cooperative board will approve the budget before the start of each fiscal year.

The Director will report regularly on the Cooperative’s financial status to the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council.

X. SERVICES, CONTRACT, AND FEES

A. Description of the basic services offered by the cooperative library. **See appendix A, “Schedule of Services and Fees.”**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Economy of scale/Group discounts | Technology Support and Innovation                       |
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Continuing Education/Training  
Advocacy/Marketing

Collaboration  
Leadership

B. Description of the cooperative library services offered by a participating library and furnished to members of the cooperative library. **See Appendix B**

C. Description of the cooperative library services furnished by a contracting third party to members of the cooperative library. **See Appendix C**

D. Description of services that will be paid for by members. **See Appendix D**

#### XI. PLAN APPROVAL & REVISIONS

The original and proposed substantial modifications to the Plan of Service will be distributed to all member libraries prior to action by the Cooperative Board. Notice will be given to member libraries when the modified Plan of Service is submitted to the History Arts Libraries Department [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan].

The Cooperative Board will submit to the Library of Michigan History Arts and Libraries Department [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan] the original Plan of Service and any substantial modification of its Plan within 60 days of approval.

The original Plan and substantial modifications will be approved by the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan].

If the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries [or parent agency of the Library of Michigan] does not respond to the cooperative library within 30 days of receipt of a plan or a substantial

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modification to a plan of service, the plan of service or substantial modification to the plan of service is deemed approved.

The Advisory Council may review and recommend changes to the Cooperative's Plan of Service at any time.

Note: "Substantial modification" means any change to a cooperative library plan of service that involves a change in public library membership which would require a change in the legal boundaries of a cooperative library as originally approved by the department.

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## Basic Services

### Superiorland Library Cooperative

#### Appendix A

##### I. Economy of Scale/Group Discounts

- A. Group discounts for subscription databases, digital media, print and nonprint materials, library furniture & supplies, etc.
- B. Group purchases of hardware, software, equipment, etc.
- C. **Online ILL request for materials not available in UPCat or MeLCat. (no change)**
- D. Shared technical and training professional staff.
- E. Full MARC record procurement for members.
- F. Public access to digitized collections through shared online catalog(s).

##### II. Continuing Education/Training

- A. Professional development workshops for library staff and trustees.
- B. Scholarships to support library staff continuing education.
- C. USF training and support to encourage members to apply for broadband and telephone service discounts through the E-Rate program.
- D. Innovative web-based training methods for library staff.

##### III. Collaboration

- A. Manage UPRLC Inc. shared automation system.
- B. Maintain a high-quality online union catalog.
- C. Support MeLCat participation with training and technical support from Co-op staff.
- D. Support the development of statewide programs.

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E. Manage and support the Great Lakes Talking Books Reader Advisory and Outreach Center. <http://greatlaketalkingbooks.org/>

F. Maintain good communications with libraries, trustees, and public by providing email and group discussion lists, hosting web pages, and website development and support for member libraries.

#### **IV. Technology Support & Innovation**

- A. On-site technology consulting and local network support for members.
- B. Analyze members' bandwidth needs and help plan for growth to meet needs.
- C. Make broadband in libraries affordable through group ISP contracts and USF group participation.
- D. Introduce innovative technology to improve local library services, such as WiFi capability that meets current standards for access and security.
- E. Provide specialized equipment, such as High Definition video conferencing and desktop conferencing capability.

#### **V. Advocacy/Marketing**

- A. Representation at the state level and participation in statewide initiatives with a focus on improving library funding and local services.
- B. Advocacy network to inform state and federal legislators about library funding and the value of each library to its community.
- C. "One Voice" advocacy.
- D. Public relations and marketing activities that support the Cooperative's mission and goals.

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**VI. Leadership**

- A. Liaison with professional library organizations outside Cooperative region.
- B. Professional consultation on library related issues.

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**Services Offered by a Participating Library**  
**Superiorland Library Cooperative**  
**Appendix B**

No fee-based services are offered by any participating library.

**Library Services Furnished by a Contracting Third Party**  
**Superiorland Library Cooperative**  
**Appendix C**

No third party has any rights under this Plan of Service Agreement. The Plan of Service Agreement is between the parties named in the Agreement, which are the Superiorland Library Cooperative and its member libraries.

**Services for a Fee**  
**Superiorland Library Cooperative**  
**Appendix D**

No fee-based services.

Libraries reimburse the Cooperative for group purchases of hardware, software, subscription databases, digital media acquisitions, etc.

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