

Schenectady County Public Library (SCPL) Long Range Plan of Service 2024

The Schenectady County Public Library System (SCPL) serves a population of 158,089 (2021) with the Central Library and 3 branches in the city of Schenectady as well as branches in the communities of Duaneburg, Glenville, Niskayuna, Rotterdam, and Scotia. Chartered as a municipal library, funding is provided through the Schenectady County Legislative budget. The Friends of the SCPL provide funding for enhancements to the library in the areas of resources, programming, and facilities. Successful grants and donations add to library financials.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Schenectady County Public Library is to meet our community's informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs by providing free and open access to a comprehensive range of materials, services, and programs. A Trustee must act in good faith, and in the best interest and goals of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Vision Statement

The Schenectady County Public Library strives to be the first choice for information and the center of knowledge for the community. The Library System enriches the entire County by providing excellence in library service, empowering individuals, families and children from the many diverse communities in Schenectady County. The Schenectady County Public Library creates opportunities to participate, connect and discover by:

- Ensuring freedom of access to information
- Anticipating and meeting changing needs of our diverse communities
- Assuring equitable access to the library's resources and services
- Promoting literacy in all its forms
- Encouraging lifelong learning
- Providing spaces and resources for people to come together as a destination center
- Developing partnerships in the community in support of our vision and goals

The Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees is using the correlates of the Vision Statement as goals for planning. A ninth goal has been added centering around compliance concerns. Ongoing work is being done to maintain a strong library presence in the community as reflected by the goals.

Goal One: Ensure freedom of access to information.

- The SCPL will provide diverse resources in various media formats.
- The Planning Committee will revisit the technology plan annually to ensure up-to-date technology for patrons and staff is included in the library budget.

Goal Two: Anticipate and meet changing needs of our diverse communities.

- The SCPL trustees, staff, and partners will ensure that library services and resources meet the needs of the community recognizing diverse cultures, languages, ages, and abilities.
- The SCPL will continue to collaborate with other community organizations to help meet this goal.

Goal Three: Assure equitable access to the library's resources and services.

- The SCPL needs to evaluate the hours of operation and staffing for each SCPL branch.
 - Expand and adjust branch library hours for equitable access six days a week at all eight branch libraries
 - Assign staff from Youth Services and Adult Services to each branch library to provide customer service and facilitate programming, collection development, and outreach for youth/adults for their assigned location(s).
- We will conduct a feasibility study assessing service delivery to differently-abled patrons.

Goal Four: Promote literacy in all its forms.

- The SCPL will implement the Family Place Library model at the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library.
- The SCPL will maintain literacy partnerships with other community organizations.
- The SCPL will continue to promote all forms of literacy.

Goal Five: Encourage lifelong learning

- The SCPL will continue to provide a variety of cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals of all ages.
- We will adequately invest in appropriate educational materials for all ages.

Goal Six: Provide spaces and resources for people to come together as a destination center.

- The SCPL will conduct an annual branch library facilities review.
- Based on the facilities review a project plan will be developed to address identified needs.
- We will provide safe, clean spaces for our staff and patrons.
- We will solicit feedback from each community branch in order to access needs.

Goal Seven: Develop partnerships in the community in support of our vision and goals.

- The SCPL will continue to develop relationships with other community organizations in order to meet its goals.
- The SCPL will strengthen these relationships in order to expand its resources.

Goal Eight: Insure a sound financial foundation for the SCPL so that it may continue to provide materials and services to the community.

- We will prepare an annual budget that adequately meets the goals of the SCPL.
- We will collaborate with the Friends of the SCPL to enhance private contributions.
- We will assess SCPL's staffing to ensure that we meet the goals of this long range plan of service.

Goal Nine: The SCPL Board of Trustees will ensure we are in compliance with any NYS Library regulations

- The Board of Trustees will conduct an annual policy review.
- We will review the 2021 new standards and work to ensure compliance.