

CHAPEL HILL/ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY FUNDING & INTEROPERABILITY

Task Force Report & Recommendations

Chapel Hill Town Council
April 19, 2023

BACKGROUND & MEETINGS

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

INTEROPERABILITY RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND & MEETINGS

- Commission and Council jointly approved creation of task force in October 2021
- Eight meetings from Jan 2022 – Feb 2023, facilitated by Maggie Chotas
- Agreed to work on issues of funding and interoperability separately
- Agreed to process of examining data, asking questions, gathering answers, seeking consensus



FUNDING RATIONALE

1. Because the Town of Chapel Hill provides library services for the approximately 61,000 County residents who live in Chapel Hill
2. So that County residents who do not live in Chapel Hill can have a CHPL account without paying an out-of-jurisdiction fee



**FUNDING
FORMULA
INTERESTS**

THOUGHTFUL - Consider all aspects, not just circulation or cardholders.

EQUITABLE - Equal funding to all residents, regardless of where they live within the County

SUSTAINABLE - Formula should be “future-proof” and adjust if populations/services change.

**“ACCESS”
MODEL
(aka Service
Provider
Model)**


- A known percentage of County residents live within the Town
- The Town is the primary provider of library services for those County residents
- [Total County funding for Orange County Library operating expenses] x [Percent of Orange County residents living with Town jurisdiction] = Annual County Funding to Town of Chapel Hill

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

- MOU using the “Access/Service Provider” model as the funding formula
- Incorporate a phased approach that will incrementally increase funding
- Be in effect for at least six years (FY 2024 – 2029)

**INTER
OPERABILITY
INTERESTS**

- **YIELD SAVINGS** for both OCPL and CHPL
- **BENEFIT USERS** at both OCPL and CHPL
- **SHARED BURDEN** to both OCPL and CHPL



**INTER
OPERABILITY
INTERESTS**

- Shared ILS would not yield cost savings
- No identified benefit to library users for either system
- No other NC county/municipal libraries are interoperable

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

- Continue communication & collaboration
- Consider opportunities for complimentary services
- Consider joint promotional campaign for library services
- Consider periodic report to Commissioners and Council

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt R-7

- Receive the Task Force report
- Thank the Task Force for their work
- Authorize the Town Manager to pursue an agreement with Orange County regarding funding for library services