

Westchester Library System (WLS) Free Direct Access Plan – Revised 2/3/2012

In preparation for submission of WLS's Plan of Service 2012-2016 to the New York State Division of Library Development, the Free Direct Access Plan was reviewed. Overall no major changes were required; however, the revisions described below were made for clarification purposes.

In accordance with Section 8 of the Free Direct Access Plan, the proposed revision was reviewed by the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) and the WLS Board of Trustees. If approved at the February PLDA General Membership Meeting, the revised document will need to be submitted to the 38 member library boards.

Directors are asked to put this matter on the next possible library board meeting for approval and to inform WLS of their board's decision by sending a copy of their board meeting minutes indicating the Free Direct Access Plan vote to Elise Burke either by electronic copy via email [eburke@wlsmail.org] or by hard copy via the routed mail. A simple majority of the 38 member libraries will constitute approval.

Summary of Edits to the 2012 Free Direct Access Plan based on the 2007 Version

Section 1: Describe how all individuals residing within the boundaries of the system but outside a member public library's chartered service area will receive library services.

Removed:

- Reference to contract library within a 2 mile radius from the border of a contracting community
- Reference to a reimbursement rate for any contract relationship

Added:

- Eligibility requirements for a free system-wide borrower's library card and a purchased WLS borrower's card
- Limitations that may be imposed to give preference to residents of a library's taxing district

Section 2: Describe (a) how the system will assure that those persons living within the system boundaries in an area where a member library chooses to withdraw from the system, or (b) where a chartered and registered library was never a member of the system, will be served by the system.

Removed:

- Limitations that may be imposed to give preference to residents of a library's taxing district [text moved to Section 1]
- Reference to WLS Central Library services [text already in Section 1]

Section 3: Describe what the system considers serious inequities and hardship and the criteria used by the system to make the determination.

No changes

Section 4: Describe what constitutes excessive out of chartered service area borrowing in the system.

Net Difference threshold raised to 15% from 14%

Section 5: Unserved and Underserved Populations

c. Describe the actions the system will take to expand the availability of library services to unserved and underserved individuals residing within the boundaries of the system.

Text condensed but focus remains on (1) providing outreach services and (2) sponsoring trustee training activities focused on library advocacy and funding

Section 6: Describe the conditions under which modifications to the free direct access plan can be made: (a) without the approval of the Commissioner; (b) with the prior approval of the Commissioner.

No changes

Section 7: Describe how the system will assure that member libraries are complying with the system free direct access plan approved by a majority of member libraries.

No changes

Section 8: Describe how the system obtained member library input to the plan for free direct access.

No changes to process