

Annual Library Service Plan – FY2025-2026
Athena Public Library

Library Vision for the Future:

Athena Public Library is a bold and vibrant part of Athena, Oregon. We support and develop programs and collections that contribute meaning and value to community life.

1. Goal: Training Library Board members

Community needs being addressed:

- The library will have 3 new board members, previous members had served on the board for the last 8 years.
- The library benefits from a well trained and active Board.

Priority(ies):

- Training Program
- Effective Library Board

Year 1 activities:

- Invite 1-2 board members to attend all staff inservice training.
- Invite all interested board members to participate in grant writing training opportunities
- Review and evaluate library policies and make recommended changes

Year 2 activities:

- Have a library board member attend OLA to maximize the amount of sessions our library is able to attend. This would increase how much we are able to take away from trainings and encourage collaboration between the Director and Library Board.
- Look for specific Board trainings that I can have for the entire Board.

2. Goal: Community Connections

Needs addressing:

We are just beginning to make progress in partnering with our schools and community businesses to expand use of and awareness of the library. We would like to expand on this in the next year to create ongoing relationships establishing the library as a vital presence in the community.

Priority(ies):

- Community Relations Program
- Adult Programs
- Welcoming/User Friendly Atmosphere

Year 1 activities

- Regular and consistent programming such as bingo, trivia, and game nights that allow community members to build connections and access the library outside regular hours.
- Field trips to the library for our local elementary and high school students. Outreach trips to our middle school, which is in Weston.
- Partnering with Weston and Adam's libraries to advertise programs and book together for lower pricing.

Year 2 activities

- Outreach to the local high school to partner with specific groups such as the Spanish Club, ATINA, Communicare, and NHS.
 - Create a welcome letter for teachers to be sent out each year to encourage staff to utilize the library for their students.
- Ask local businesses for support in funding programs like summer reading. Advertise in partnership with those businesses.
- Attend the school district in-service to facilitate partnerships, share resources, and collaborate with teachers for class visits, online resources, and use of our new spanish language collection.

3. Goal: Collection Development and Library of Things

Community Needs Being Addressed:

- Provide materials in diverse and accessible formats, including Playaways, large print, and connection to the Talking Book & Braille Library.
- Maintain a current and relevant collection that reflects community interests and evolving trends.
- Offer rural access to non-traditional items (tools, tech, hobby kits) that reduce the need for one-time purchases and storage burdens.

Year 1 Activities:

- Weed and reorganize the collection to create room for growth.
- Focus on updating nonfiction by removing outdated titles.
- Expand high-demand collections, including graphic novels and Playaways.
- Develop juvenile and young adult series binders to help readers follow book sequences.
- Collaborate with a teen intern to prepare and organize space for the Library of Things collection.
- Join LOT discussion groups and coordinate cataloging with Dea.

Year 2 Activities:

- Track LOT usage and assess evolving community needs.
- Continue regular weeding to maintain a dynamic, responsive collection.
- Pursue grant opportunities to grow the LOT and Playaway collections.

General Update

All goals are now progressing through their Year 2 activities, with some Year 1 efforts still ongoing. While meaningful progress has been made, these initiatives require more time to fully realize our vision. We remain committed to these goals and will continue to pursue them in the coming year. Once they are fully embedded in our operations, we will reassess and identify new goals to address emerging community needs.

We look forward to reporting continued progress during the next Annual Library Service Plan review.

UCSLD 9 Priorities

1. Early Childhood Program: Focused on early childhood literacy that gets children ready to learn.
2. K-12 Youth Programs: Focused on establishing/maintaining a lifelong relationship between the youth and the public library.
3. Adult Programs: Focused on continuing education programs, enhancement of economic viability, and lifelong learning. Includes outreach to seniors and the homebound.
4. Training Program: Focused on identifying and providing specific training needed by staff, board and volunteers that will strengthen skills, services, and programs.
5. Technology: Focused on significantly increasing web presence and technology resources to provide rural community access to the Internet, jobs, and skill learning.
6. Welcoming/User Friendly Atmosphere: Focused on developing a library that is a friendly, active and welcoming center of rural community life.
7. Effective Library Board: Focused on committed and effective Board, actively engaged in the governance and planning of the library.
8. Friends/Volunteer Program: Focused on utilizing Friends and Volunteers as active and effective resources to assist with access, services, program delivery, fundraising efforts, publicity and community relations.