

Sandy Knipmeyer
CC: Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan
800# ILL Service & Reference Back up
Anchorage Public Library
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

3/30/2026

SUBJECT: Continued Support for the 800# Interlibrary Loan and Reference Back-up Service

Dear Ms. Sandy Knipmeyer,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Anchorage Public Library's decision not to pursue continued funding for the 800# Interlibrary Loan and Reference Back-up Service beyond the current grant cycle. We fully understand and respect the financial and operational challenges outlined in your correspondence. Anchorage Public Library has played a critical role in sustaining this service for more than two decades, and its contributions to libraries across Alaska are deeply appreciated.

At the same time, this program remains an essential component of equitable library access throughout the state. Many smaller and rural libraries rely heavily on this service to meet the informational and educational needs of their communities—needs that cannot be met locally due to limited collections and staffing. The 800# Interlibrary Loan and Reference Back-up Service ensures that all Alaskans, regardless of geography, have meaningful access to shared library resources.


For example, Newhalen School has directly benefited from this program by gaining access to books, research materials, early learning materials, and reference support that would otherwise be unavailable in such a remote location. Through interlibrary loan services, students and educators have been able to support classroom learning, complete research projects, and expand their access to a broader range of educational resources. Without this program, opportunities for students in communities like Newhalen and Iliamna would be significantly limited.

Given its statewide importance, we believe this program should be preserved and sustainably funded at the state level. Continued reliance on a single municipal library to absorb costs beyond grant support is not a viable long-term model. Instead, a more stable and equitable funding structure—led by the State of Alaska—will be necessary to ensure continuity of service.

We strongly encourage the State of Alaska to prioritize funding for this program and to work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify a sustainable path forward. Preserving this service is vital to maintaining a connected and resource-sharing library system that serves all Alaskans.

Thank you again for your leadership and for the many years Anchorage Public Library has supported this important initiative.

Sincerely,


Evelynn Trefon
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