

EmPOWERing Access at Mendocino County Library

Privacy Booths

Mendocino County Library is a rural system consisting of six library branches and a Bookmobile and Outreach Van. In some of our most rural locations the branches are the only place for people to access the internet, to print documents, and of course to check out books and obtain other library services.

Our library system, like many others, has become much more active in presenting programming throughout the day and has patrons stopping in to use our reading spaces and have small meetings. Patrons have requested quiet spaces for research, private online meetings for appointments such as tele-health, literacy practice, and job interviews. The booths would help patrons to use the library's existing online resources such as language learning, online tutoring, and learning essential job skills. Each location currently has Chromebooks for patrons to use if they don't have their own device and can be used in the privacy booths.

None of our branches have privacy booths or rooms to meet this need and the locations that would receive the booths do not have access to other free private spaces for community members to use. We have recently investigated privacy booths, and the costs were prohibitive for our library system.

We are requesting privacy booths for four of our branches (Ukiah, Willits, Fort Bragg, and Coast Community) which each can make space for one privacy booth. Our very rural branches are as far away from each other as a two-hour drive. Our county has a significant number of residents who are living below the poverty line, as well as ethnically diverse populations including Hispanic and Indigenous peoples.

We appreciate that the privacy booths are fully ADA accessible and are up to code according to our Planning and Building Department. Branch Managers have been discussing possible reservation systems so that there would be equitable access for the use of the privacy booths.

Solar Charging Devices

Mendocino County has adopted an Energy Conservation Policy to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency, purchase products that minimizes environmental impact and more. Solar charging devices would help our county move this towards this goal.

Our branches are routinely already used for charging devices and serve as a community hubs during natural disasters and during power outages. In 2017, during the Redwood Complex Fire,

the Willits branch was the only location in the city as the only local source of WiFi, power, and up-to-date information. The image below shows one of the community meetings held at the branch by the Sheriff's Department.



Having charging devices to lend out to patrons for routine or emergency use would be a great help to the residents of our communities who most likely will continue to face threats of wildfire, rolling blackouts, flooding, and power outages. In the past few months, one of our remote branches has had at least three power outages. We are requesting 50 solar chargers for all of our branches and the Bookmobile.

Library's Mission, Vision, and Values

The privacy booths and solar chargers would be great additions to our library system and help the Mendocino County Library to draw in people looking for private accommodations and power for their devices and help to carry out the mission, vision, and values:

The mission of the Mendocino County Library is to enrich lives through free and equitable access to materials and programs centered on education, culture, and entertainment.

Our vision is an informed, connected, inclusive, and creative community where opportunities for discovery are celebrated.

We appreciate this opportunity from the California State Library and the Southern California Library Cooperative and LSTA to empower our patrons with greater access to much needed private spaces and solar charging devices.

EmPOWERing Access - Project Application

California libraries are invited to apply for the EmPOWERing Access project which provides support to Californians seeking assistance in both offering access to and the use of online resources through their local library. The project will purchase accessible privacy booths, solar charging devices, and repair kits for libraries for use by their communities. Funding for this opportunity is provided by the California State Library, in partnership with the Southern California Library Cooperative.

Before submitting this application, please review Pillar Booth specifications and project requirements [HERE](#).

There will be a limited number of accessible privacy booths and if there are more eligible applications than available supplies, SCLC will use [California Poverty Measure](#) to determine which libraries will receive them. Accordingly, applicants must provide the location of where they would use the booths.

*** 1. Library Name (Library System / Jurisdiction)**

Mendocino County Library

*** 2. Library Director Contact Info**

Director
Name

Barbra Chapman

Email

chapmanb@mendocinocounty.gov

*** 3. Main Project Contact Info**

Name of the library staff member who will be the main point of contact for the entirety of the project.

Name

Lily Rojo

Job Title

Department Application Specialist

Email

rojol@mendocinocounty.gov

Phone
Number

707-234-2861

* 4. Shipping Address for items

The shipping address will be where vendors ship items requested directly to the library.

Street

Address

105 N. Main St.

City

Ukiah

State

CA

Zip Code

95482

5. Desired Quantity of Pillar Accessible Privacy Booths

4

6. Please attach a document with the list of locations where the booths will be installed including name, full street address, and quantity of booths requested per location.

Available file types PDF, DOC, DOCX

Required file name:
Empowering_Access_Locations

Replace File

✓ Mendocino County Library Privacy Booths and Locations.pdf

Remove File

7. If your library is requesting Pillar Accessible Privacy Booths, please certify that these booths meet all local codes and requirements.

☐ I certify that these booths meet all local codes and requirements by reviewing the Pillar Booth spec sheets.

8. Desired Quantity of Solar Charging Devices (Minimum Request 3)

**Exact make and model supplied may vary based on availability at time of group order.*

50

9. Desired Quantity of iFixit Repair Tool Kits (Minimum Request 3)

0

10. If your library is requesting Repair Tool Kits, please certify that your library will be able to provide a program to use the fix it kits and complete a survey about the program by June 15, 2024.

☐ I certify my library will be able to provide a program to use the fix it kits by June 15, 2024.

☐ I certify my library will be able to complete a survey about the program using the fix it kits by June 15, 2024. The survey will request information describing the program, when, where, intended audience, how many times it was presented, and how many people attended, along with program participant feedback.

*** 11. Please describe how any items requested through this project will expand access within your communities, including how they will promote equity for underserved populations.**

Suggested length: 250-500 words. PDF, DOC, DOCX files accepted.

Required file name:

Empowering_Access_LibraryName

Replace File

✓ EmPOWERing Access at Mendocino County Library.pdf

[Remove File](#)

12. Any additional notes from the library to provide to the emPOWERing Access Project team

[Submit Application](#)

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