

YOUNG ADULT SERVICES - STATEWIDE DEVELOPMENT

by

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I. SUMMARY

This report provides a recommendation for a statewide Young Adult Services Program. The adoption of this program in August 1998 addresses the Board's responsibility under the California Library Services Act (CLSA) "to assist public libraries to improve service to the underserved of all ages" (Education Code Section 18702) and the legislature's intent for The Library of California (LOC), in "assisting libraries to provide and improve service to the underserved" (Education Code Section 18801 [a] [2]). It is also in keeping with priorities identified by the Library of California Board (formerly called the California Library Services Board). Underserved is defined as any population segment with exceptional service needs that are not adequately met by traditional library service patterns. To put the report into context, it contains the following components:

- I. Summary -- Recommendation; Rationale for Recommendation
- II. Statement of the Problem -- Compelling State Interest to Provide Young Adult Services
- III. Proposed Solution
- IV. Appendices -- Program Directions; Methodology Utilized for Development of Program Directions; Chronology of Events; Implementation Timeline

I. a. RECOMMENDATION

Adopted by the Board in August 1998 is Program Direction A, Young Adult Services Program Based On Local Need, a five-year competitive grant program which would enable 179 public library jurisdictions to apply for a grant (amounts would vary based on population categories in the California Library Statistics 1999). This approach addresses local need by providing a series of four service thrusts that have, over a five+ year period, been identified by young adults, community specialists, the library community input from two statewide questionnaires and two statewide forums. These service thrusts include: Youth Development Skills; Homework Centers; A Place To Go; Technology. (For more information regarding these service thrusts and program directions see Appendix I).

A gradual increase of local support would be phased in so that at the end of the five-year period, funding of the services becomes a local responsibility. An evaluation procedure would be developed along with a uniform means of gathering data (statistics, etc.) so that impact could be measured and services could be evaluated. A longitudinal study would be conducted over a five-year period to assess the impact of the statewide service.

I. b. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Program Direction A: Young Adult Services Program Based On Local Need, was recommended because it represents the best method to address the full spectrum of Young Adult needs in individual communities. This approach is similar in concept to the state funded California Literacy Campaign

that provides a framework for the development of service but allows flexibility for library jurisdictions to meet the needs of their communities, something which is essential in planning services for young adults who in many cases are not library users.

Program Direction A allows each of the 179 public library jurisdictions to select one to two service thrusts from a group of four service directions (youth development skills; homework centers; technology; a place to go) and to develop service(s) that is (are) responsive to local needs. It was recommended because: It requires teen input and involvement in development of individual service programs; Provides an evaluative component that allows for both local and state evaluation of services; Empowers young adults to participate in the planning of library service; Opens new avenues whereby local young adults may have their needs met; Is responsive to needs identified by teens, the library community, community specialists, educators; Is related to both of the statewide prevention initiatives for young adults that are currently in place (technology, mentoring); Is easy to administer at the state level. With the gradual increase of local support over a five year period, Program Direction A assists local jurisdictions to assume local responsibility for funding services for young adults in individual libraries.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the last decade of the 20th Century, young adults (ages 13-18) are the most diverse generation ever to come of age in California - ethnically, culturally, and economically. Some young adults are often characterized as being cynical, apathetic, uninformed, amoral or violent even though there are many who are optimistic, upbeat, hard working, scholarship seeking, etc. While cataclysmic assumptions of doom for the young have been around since the time of Aristotle, it is fair to say that today's young adults face a more complex present and confusing future than earlier generations.

California regards itself as the harbinger of America's future, the vision of its youthful vitality and promise. In this Golden State it is ironic that the future of the young is grim. Looking at the deterioration of conditions for youth over the last twenty-five years, one notes the following: In 1970 the state had six counties in which youth poverty exceeded 20% but in no case exceeded 30% (primarily interior valley counties dominated by migrant labor camps). As of 1995, California had 38 counties in which child and teen poverty rates topped 20%, including 18 in which it exceeds 30% and 4 in which it exceeds 40%. Another 1 million California youth live barely above poverty conditions.

California's economic, political, and cultural future is threatened by an increase in teen pregnancies and youth violence, young adolescents' substance abuse, unemployment and high school drop out rates, etc. The following statistics show how our state ranks among other states in four areas:

- Incarcerated Youth 50th out of 50
- Unemployed Youth 46th out of 50
- Teen Births 43rd out of 50
- School Dropout Rates 38th out of 50

(Source: Children Now: "Report Card" 1995; NOTE: rank 50th includes the highest amount in each case)

As of 1995 there was a statewide population of 2,530,917 young adults (ages 13-18). Projected population figures (2020) and demographic breakdowns as shown in the chart below:

DEMOGRAPHICS: 13-18 YEARS OLD CALIFORNIANS			
	1995	2020	CHANGE %
TOTAL	2,530,917	4,032,928	+59%
Caucasian	43%	25%	-18%
Hispanic	36%	49%	+6%
Asian American	12%	18%	+6%
African American	8%	6%	-6%
Native American	1%	1%	

SOURCE: Census Bureau 1990; Department of Finance 1998

Population projections by county for the same period of time (1990-2020) estimate an increase in all counties except Marin, with the largest increases occurring in Calaveras County (287%); Riverside County (204%); Sutter County (183%); Lake County (180%).

These figures and the projected demographic changes are significant and they have definite service implications for public library services for young adults in California. Key areas of impact include: collection development; availability or access to information; technology; availability of services being offered; relevance of services being offered; programming; promotion of services; and availability of materials in other-than-English languages.

II. a. COMPELLING STATE INTEREST TO PROVIDE YOUNG ADULT SERVICE PROGRAMS

There are some compelling indicators that far too many adolescents are at risk of not reaching their full potential as healthy, contributing adults in our state. Poverty, lack of educational and economic opportunities, adverse environmental conditions, and inadequate family support contribute to this undesirable situation. Adolescence is a unique developmental stage distinct from both childhood and adulthood. All adolescents have basic human needs that must be met if they are to negotiate safe passage to adulthood. These include: the need to have caring relationships with adults; the need to receive guidance in facing sometimes overwhelming challenges; the need to be a valued member of a constructive peer group; the need to become a socially competent individual who has the skills to cope successfully with everyday life; the need to believe in a promising future with real opportunities; the need to have a sense of self worth that is predicated on achievement and character; and the need to have access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom. There is currently an insufficient safety net of services to facilitate transition from young adulthood (ages 13-18) to adulthood. The issues facing today's young adults are monumental especially poverty, social issues such as incarceration, crime, unemployment, teen pregnancy, and attrition. A New York Times article (April 12, 1998) stated that young adults fear violence and it is important for them to have a safe place to go -- a place where they can fit in and belong. It is important to understand that the task of reaching young adults and helping them to develop the skills, knowledge and values necessary for becoming productive adults is not the job of isolated educational or social welfare institutions. Rather it is the job of all institutions in the community, including the public library. The Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development provided a study "A Matter of Time: Risk and Opportunity in the Public Out-of-School Hours," (New York: Carnegie Corporation, 1992) which emphasizes the importance of involvement by the public library and reinforces the major role that public libraries must take in addressing Young Adult Services.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) published a report in 1995 entitled "Services and Resources for Children and Young Adults in Public Libraries: A Statistical Analysis Report" which provides several important findings related to usage of public libraries by children and young adults. These include:

- Three in five public library users are youth
- Computer technologies are among the most heavily used children's and young adult resources in public libraries, they are also among the most scarce

- 30% of all public librarians who provide services directly to the public specialize in services to youth, a ratio of about one youth specialist to every 618 young people
- While almost all public libraries provide reference assistance, only about one in seven offer homework assistance programs for children or young adults

The public library is the only community institution that provides lifelong learning for all ages. During the turn of the 20th century, the public library served as a community center by providing educational opportunities to thousands of immigrants who came to this country to make a better life for themselves and their families. Libraries have a long tradition of providing services to adults and to children. In fact, Children's Services is considered by many to be the foundation of public library service; however, institutional support for young adults has not kept pace. As a result, Young Adult Services has not become a dynamic part of the total library service program. That is certainly the case in California, where some public libraries are currently providing limited service for young adults.

- There are tremendous disparities among public library jurisdictions in the levels of public library services provided to young adults.
- There is a need to provide services that young adults are requesting (i.e., homework centers, access to computers, study space).
- There is a need for initiatives that allow local libraries the flexibility to develop programs and to customize services to better meet the needs of their local communities.
- There is a need to gain and ensure input from young adults in the shaping of local programs and services.
- There is a need for collections of materials with up-to-date information of interest and use to young adults.

California's youth need more support than is currently being provided to help them get on the right track toward a productive adulthood. A state-funded Young Adult Services Program based on Program Design A could provide a safe and productive environment where young adults could find information and services on a variety of topics. Program components would include: Technology (availability such as Internet access for homework); Homework Centers; Youth Development Skills (career information, health information, college information, etc.) and A Place To Go (safe comfortable place). These broad program components would meet the needs that have been identified by young adults and the library community and would allow library jurisdictions the flexibility to tailor the services to meet the needs of young adults in local communities, a factor that has been identified as being critical in most successful youth services approaches.

A statewide Young Adult Services Program such as Program Direction A would complement existing state funded services for young adults such as: the "California Mentor Initiative" (mentoring program is designed to match at-risk children and youth with caring adult role models for one-to-one academic mentoring to provide positive guidance, improved school behavior, and academic progress); and the "Education Technology Initiative--Digital High School" which, over a four year period, will provide every California high school student with computer training and access to the resources of the

Information Superhighway (Dept. of Education--this initiative will be expanded to include middle schools). Both of these initiatives are aimed at transitioning adolescents into adulthood. Public libraries would assist in this transitional process by providing information and developing services that are responsive to the four service thrusts by making meeting space available, by providing an opportunity for young adults to assist in planning and developing library service in their public libraries. Goals of a statewide Young Adult Services Program would be: To increase teen knowledge of technology; To broaden teen access to information; To provide a safe place and a non-threatening environment for teens to study; To develop self esteem for teens by encouraging teen involvement in planning, developing, and implementing services; To provide teens with the ability to acquire youth development skills (i.e. career, health and family information, college information).

Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between reading/educational achievement and crime free lifestyles. A recent study by A. F. Abrahamse: "The Coming Wave of Violence in California," (Rand Corporation, 1997) indicated that California's homicide arrest rate in 2021 will be about 28% higher than it is today. The key finding is that what lies in store for California depends on the upbringing of young Californians today and tomorrow. The cost of housing one inmate in a California state prison for one year is \$21,470*. An investment in providing public library services for young adults on a statewide basis has the potential of reducing the number of future inmates, thus reducing the potential prison costs in the future. The public library is a community-based learning center which has great potential to provide educational information and assistance, training, employment and support services for youth. These types of preventive services are a cost-effective investment in the future of youth in our state.

* Source: California Department of Corrections 1998

III. PROPOSED SOLUTION

During the last five years, the CLSB/Library of California Board has been instrumental in sponsoring a series of activities related to the development of a statewide Young Adult Services Program. (For more information see Appendix III Chronology of Events).

The input from the library community, young adults, community specialists, colleagues both at the state and national levels, along with input from five statewide forums and two statewide questionnaires has revealed significant data which has been studied and analyzed. The program directions that are briefly described are based on this data. (For more detailed information on individual program directions see Appendix I Program Directions).

PROGRAM DIRECTION A: Young Adult Service Program Based On Local Need

Focuses on four service thrusts (youth development skills; homework centers; technology; a place to go) which are related to statewide prevention and intervention initiatives. Libraries would choose no more than two service thrusts that best meet the needs of the local community and develop service program(s) that would result in public library service for local young adults.

PROGRAM DIRECTION B: Young Adult Service Program Based On Homework Centers

Focuses on one service thrust (Homework Centers) that is related to the statewide prevention and intervention mentoring initiative. Libraries would develop a service program based on homework centers that could include all or part of the three remaining service thrusts and develop a service plan that best meets the needs of young adults in local communities.

PROGRAM DIRECTION C: Young Adult Book Collections

Does not focus on any of the specific service thrusts but instead provides funding for public library jurisdictions to purchase materials for young adults.

In August 1998 the Board adopted Program Direction A: Young Adult Service Program Based On Local Need which focuses on a series of four service thrusts which, over a five year period, have been identified by young adults, the library community, community specialists and input from five statewide forums and two statewide questionnaires.

This approach will assist all public library jurisdictions to establish and focus Young Adult Services (ages 13-18) by offering a series of competitive grants which enable libraries to identify local needs and to develop programs and services in the following areas:

- Youth Development Skills
(would include literacy development, career information, resources for intellectual development, health information, college information, cultural pride and heritage, etc.)
- Homework Centers
(placed in public libraries in which community volunteers are trained to work with students)
- A Place To Go
(provide an open comfortable safe space designed by young adults to read and work in small groups on homework assignments)
- Technology
(access to computers/Internet, information literacy, training, evaluation of electronic resources, etc.)

Libraries would select no more than two of the service thrusts in conjunction with their local young adult advisory group, that would best meet the needs of their community. Benchmarks would be developed for the first year such as formation of a young adult advisory council and development of a Young Adult Services Plan.

Public library jurisdictions participating in the state funded Young Adult Services Program will be required to do the following:

1. Develop a young adult advisory council within the first six months of the grant to ensure ongoing

young adult input and involvement throughout the program.

2. Partner with at least two agencies, institutions, and organizations that do provide or could provide services to teens and collaborate with at least two agencies, institutions, organizations (i.e., PTA, Parks and Recreation). Applicants would be encouraged to work with the school librarian (high schools/middle schools) prior to submission of the grant application.
3. Identify and implement a means for the ongoing involvement and input of young adults, potential community partners and library staff in the development and implementation of a Young Adult Services Plan.
4. Build support within the library and within the community for Young Adult Services.
5. Assure that services will be planned and delivered by supportive staff.
6. Develop a continuation plan for Young Adult Services in the library jurisdiction that addresses, at the very least, the ongoing responsibility for Young Adult Services and a specific commitment to ongoing young adult collection development.

Funds would be awarded to individual public library jurisdictions to initiate a Young Adult Services Program. Grant monies would be reworked to allow for less monies to be awarded during the first year when planning activities occur and more dollars for two year start-up practices (planning costs are substantially less than program start-up costs.) The in-kind (i.e., matching) formula that is used by the California Library Literacy Service over a five-year period (year 1 75%, Year 2 100%, Year 3 100%, year 4 75%, Year 5 50%) will be reviewed and revised by the Staff and Committee to recommend to the Board the appropriate percentage match for each year of the grant. Ongoing state funding for local programs on a matching basis could become available at the completion of the five-year establishment period. The total amount of funding based on population categories in the 1999 California Library Statistics (179 public library jurisdictions) is \$5,300,000.

Statewide training sessions on adolescent development, needs assessment, and other aspects of Young Adult Services will be provided by the State Library.

Evaluative benchmarks will be developed from the onset to measure performance (i.e. output measures for Young Adult Services, etc.) with built in funding for a longitudinal study that would be conducted over a five-year period to assess the impact of the statewide service.

Libraries will be encouraged to apply for grants annually over a five-year period. Applicants would be required to:

- Describe the current level of Young Adult Services in their library
- Provide overview of their community that would include demographic data, statistics, agencies with services available for young adults within the community
- Indicate the level of local support available from the library jurisdiction
- Describe why they are applying for the grant and what they hope will be accomplished for young adults in their communities

- Describe how they will evaluate the effectiveness of the grant locally
- Partner with at least two community agencies, that provide services to young adults so that local resources can be leveraged, they must also describe the level of involvement from the partners
- Define the target audience and age of service recipients and explain why the age was chosen
- Describe input received from young adults and/or young adult advisory council

Applications would be evaluated on:

- Demonstrated need
- Input from the community
- Overall quality and completeness of the application
- Ability to provide in kind support
- Development of a Young Adult Services Plan

The public library is a community-based learning center which offers the potential of improving the quality of life for local young adults, however, that is currently not occurring on a statewide basis. Although there is tremendous interest in the library community to develop services for young adults, that has not occurred due to several problematic issues faced by library jurisdictions. The most important being a lack of resources to develop meaningful and relevant collections and services, the lack of staff to address the needs of young adults, and attitudinal perceptions.

By providing resources for a statewide Young Adult Services Program, libraries will receive that “jump start” that can help them get started in serving their young adults. The statewide program will provide young adults with information and services that assist in transitioning from adolescence to adulthood by including a library component to existing statewide intervention and prevention initiatives, something that is currently lacking. In addition a statewide program will:

- Help to level the playing field between the information haves and have-nots by ensuring that libraries would have a basic level of service for young adults including access to information and technologies
- Assist in leveraging those limited local resources
- Ensure that California’s young adults would have equitable access to public library service, similar to what is readily available for adults and children in all public libraries

The public library can become the vehicle by which the intervention services that meet the needs of local young adults, and complement the broad state initiatives for them, could be carried out in the local non-threatening environment. The public library will become a true community center again in the 21st century, where educational information, assistance, training, resource materials, and support services for young adults will be available. Working in collaboration with other community based organizations that provide services for youth (i.e. schools) the public library will become a meaningful and relevant resource for local young adults.

APPENDIX I

PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

PROGRAM DIRECTION A: Young Adult Services Program Based On Local Need

This approach focuses on a series of four service thrusts that have been identified through input from young adults, the library community, community specialists, state agency representatives, and educators. They include:

- Youth Development Skills
(would include literacy development, career information, resources for intellectual development, health information, college information, cultural pride and heritage, etc.)
- Homework Centers
(placed in public libraries in which community volunteers are trained to work with students)
- A Place To Go
(provide an open comfortable safe space designed by young adults to read and work in small groups on homework assignments)
- Technology
(access to computers/Internet, information literacy, training, evaluation of electronic resources, etc.)

All of these service thrusts are related to both of the statewide prevention initiatives that are currently in place (technology, mentoring).

Public libraries would establish a teen council within six months of receiving a grant and they would work with young adults to determine the choice of service thrusts. They would then select no more than two service thrusts that would best meet the needs of the local community and develop service program approaches that would result in public library service for local young adults.

A competitive grant process for locally developed projects would be conducted for the program by the State Library. Funds would be awarded to individual public library jurisdictions to initiate a Young Adult Services Program. Funding formulas would be based on population categories cited in California Library Statistics, with an annual range between \$15,000-\$45,000 per grant. The in-kind (i.e., matching) formula that is used by the California Library Literacy Service over a five year period (year 1 75%, Year 2 100%, Year 3 100%, year 4 75%, Year 5 50%) will be reviewed and revised by the Staff and Committee to recommend to the Board the appropriate percentage match for each year of the grant. Ongoing state funding for local programs on a matching basis could become available at the completion of the five-year establishment period. The total amount of funding based on population categories in the 1999 California Library Statistics (179 public library jurisdictions) is \$5,300,000.

Statewide training sessions on adolescent development, and other aspects of Young Adult Services would be provided by the State Library.

Evaluative benchmarks would be developed from the onset to measure performance (i.e. output measures for Young Adult Services, etc.) with built in funding for a longitudinal study that would be conducted over a five-year period to assess the impact of the statewide service.

ADVANTAGES of this direct service program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include the following:

YOUNG ADULTS:

1. Provides an opportunity for young adults to participate in the planning and implementation of library service.
2. Focuses state and local attention to an at-risk and underserved population.
3. Develops a means whereby young adults may have their current library service needs met.
4. By utilizing public library collections, young adults would have access to another range of informational materials in addition to those currently available in school libraries.
5. Young adults would receive assistance during hours and days when school libraries are inaccessible (evenings, Sundays).
6. Every public library jurisdiction would have an opportunity to develop/broaden services to local teens.
7. Opens new avenues whereby young adults may have their educational, recreational, and informational needs met.

COLLABORATION/PARTNERING

1. Strengthens the statewide prevention and intervention initiatives by adding a public library component which is currently lacking.
2. Strengthens collaboration and cooperation among the library and other community-based organizations/agencies.
3. Builds support within the library and within the community for Young Adult Services.

STAFF

1. Increases library staff awareness of young adult needs by providing training that will assist them in working more effectively with young adults in their communities.
2. Has the potential, through related statewide training, of increasing the number of librarians who are able to work effectively with young adults.

FLEXIBILITY

1. Provides flexibility to public library jurisdictions to best meet the needs of local communities by offering a selection of service thrusts.

2. Allows the library to focus attention on specific young adult needs and to develop appropriate targeted services for that need without trying to meet all needs.

LEADERSHIP

1. Positions the library in a leadership (pro-active) role within the community.
2. This approach has the potential of providing long-lasting improvement in Youth Services in many or all public library jurisdictions.

CHALLENGES of this direct service program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include:

1. It may be difficult to locate staff members or others with the necessary combination of youth awareness and facilitative skills to work with young adults.
2. Adolescents may not perceive the library as a resource for information and may choose not to use the service.
3. Some of these services may already be available through community agencies.
4. Teens might use the public library facility in such numbers that other users are uncomfortable.
5. Demand/need for the service may exceed available resources.
6. Some communities have a limited number of agencies, institutions and organizations that either do or could work with young adults.

PROGRAM DIRECTION B: Young Adult Services Program Based On Homework Centers

This approach focuses on the service thrust (Homework Centers) and is related to the statewide prevention and intervention mentoring initiative. Public libraries would develop a young adult advisory council within six months of receiving a grant and would then utilize young adult input to develop a service program based on homework centers.

A competitive grant process for locally developed projects based on Homework Centers would be conducted for the program by the State Library. Funds would be awarded to individual public library jurisdictions to initiate a Young Adult Services Program. Funding formulas would be based on population categories cited in California Library Statistics, with an annual range between \$15,000-\$45,000 per grant. The in-kind (i.e., matching) formula that is used by the California Library Literacy Service over a five-year period (Year 1 75%, Year 2 100%, Year 3 100%, Year 4 75%, Year 5 50%) will be reviewed and revised by the Staff and Committee to recommend to the Board the appropriate percentage match for each year of the grant. Ongoing state funding for local programs on a matching basis could become available at the completion of the five-year establishment period. The total amount of funding based on population categories in the 1999 California Library Statistics (179 public library jurisdictions) is \$5,300,000.

Evaluative benchmarks would be developed from the onset to measure performance (i.e. output measures for Young Adult Services, etc.) with built in funding for a longitudinal study that would be conducted over a five-year period to assess the impact of the statewide service.

Statewide training sessions on adolescent development, and other aspects of Young Adult Services would be provided by the State Library.

ADVANTAGES of this direct service program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include the following:

YOUNG ADULTS:

1. Provides an opportunity for young adults to participate in the planning and implementation of library service.
2. Focuses state and local attention to an at-risk and underserved population.
3. Develops a means whereby young adults may have their current library service needs met.
4. By utilizing public library collections, young adults would have access to another range of informational materials than are currently available in school libraries.
5. Young adults would receive assistance during hours and days when school libraries are inaccessible (evenings, Sundays).

6. Every public library jurisdiction would have an opportunity to develop/broaden services to local teens.

COLLABORATION/PARTNERING

1. Strengthens the statewide prevention and intervention initiatives by adding a public library component which is currently lacking.
2. Strengthens collaboration and cooperation among the library and other community-based organizations/agencies.
3. Builds support within the library and within the community for Young Adult Services.

STAFF

1. Increases library staff awareness of young adult needs by providing training.
2. Has the potential, through related statewide training, of increasing the number of librarians who are able to work effectively with young adults.

FLEXIBILITY

1. Provides flexibility to public library jurisdictions to best meet the needs of local communities by offering a selection of service thrusts.
2. Allows the library to focus attention on specific young adult needs and to develop appropriate targeted services for that need without trying to meet all needs.

LEADERSHIP

1. Positions the library in a leadership (pro-active) role within the community.
2. This approach has the potential of providing long-lasting improvement in Youth Services in many or all public library jurisdictions.
3. This approach adds a library component, something that is currently lacking, to the statewide mentoring initiative.

CHALLENGES of this direct service program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include:

1. Adolescents may not perceive the library as a resource for information and may choose not to use the service.
2. Some of these services may already be available through community agencies.
3. Young adults might use the public library facility in such numbers that other users are uncomfortable.
4. Demand/need for the service may exceed available resources.
5. Some communities have a limited number of agencies, institutions and organizations that either do or could work with young adults.

6. Young adults may have less appeal than other at-risk populations to some staff and community members.
7. The distinction between public libraries and school libraries could become further blurred in the minds of local residents who, in many cases, are not able to distinguish between the missions and roles of the two libraries.

PROGRAM DIRECTION C: Young Adult Book Collections

This approach does not focus on any of the service thrusts or the statewide prevention and intervention initiatives but instead focuses on providing funding for public library jurisdictions to purchase materials for young adults.

The approach would result in tangible products (books) that could assist all public library jurisdictions in the state. Due to the economic climate in some individual communities, many library jurisdictions have been forced to reduce and in some cases eliminate the acquisition of library materials. The average price of a hardcover youth book is \$17.24.

The statewide population of young adults (ages 13-18) is 2,530,917. A request for \$2,530,917 would result in the acquisition of approximately 146,804 hardcover books (843 hardback books per jurisdiction). Funding could be allocated according to a formula based on the number of young adults (ages 13-18) in individual public library jurisdictions. A request for \$5,300,000 would result in the acquisition of 307,425 hardcover books (1,717 hardback books per jurisdiction).

ADVANTAGES of this indirect service program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include the following:

1. Would provide tangible products
2. Easy to explain to the Legislature and library advocates
3. Would provide materials for every library in the state at a very minimal amount per library
4. Easy to administer

CHALLENGES of this indirect service preliminary program direction for a state funded Young Adult Services Program include the following:

1. Lack of service component -- minimal usage.
2. Difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach.
3. Would not address the needs of individual communities when they varied from simple collection development.
4. The number of items awarded to individual jurisdictions would be minimal (i.e. 843 hardback books per jurisdiction; 1,717 hardback books per jurisdiction).
5. Limited, if any, impact on teens in local communities if there is no promotion of the materials.
6. Does not address needs identified by teens and the library community.
7. Is not related to any of the two statewide prevention initiatives.
8. Does not allow the library to be viewed in a leadership (pro-active) role within the community.
9. Does not provide potential of providing long-lasting improvement in Youth Services in many or all public library jurisdictions.

APPENDIX II

METHODOLOGY UTILIZED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

METHODOLOGY UTILIZED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

In 1990-1994 the California State Library awarded several federally funded Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grants to address the issue of library services to young adults -- one of which was to the Bay Area Library and Information System (BALIS) (Northern California) and one to the Los Angeles Public Library. These two grants enabled libraries to work with young adults in planning library services in individual communities. Those grants provided data that was useful in developing a statewide approach to the development of Young Adult Services.

In August 1994, the CLSB President appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to examine the development of a California Library Service Act (CLSA) Special Services Component on Young Adult Services which would further the legislative intent of the California Library Services Act; "to assist public libraries to improve service to the underserved of all ages" (Education Code 4, Title 1, Part 11, Chapter 4, Section 18702).

A Young Adult Services Questionnaire was developed in March 1995 to assess the level of Young Adult Services on a statewide basis. The response rate of 98% indicated that in spite of the economic climate and other problematic issues faced by library jurisdictions, there was a sincere interest to look at the issue of Young Adult Services and to begin to address it on a statewide basis. The complete analysis of the questionnaire, which was presented to the California Library Services Board in August 1995, looked at data from a variety of perspectives and analyzed results in terms of type of library, geographic characteristics, size of service population, and relation to age definition by libraries to identify what commonalities among the libraries might be used as a basis for a statewide Young Adult Services Program. There were no clear cut uniform patterns of Young Adult Services by any significant portion of California Public Libraries.

A series of four statewide forums were held September 1995 in Fremont, Fresno, Los Angeles and South Chula Vista that provided information on the issues, needs and wants from three different perspectives--local teens, community specialists, and the library community. Information from those forums, along with previous information, served as the basis of a program design which was presented to the California Library Services Board in February 1996 and then forwarded to the library community for input. In August 1996 the California Library Services Board recommended that a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for \$1,000,000 be prepared and submitted for development of a statewide Young Adult Services Program.

The recommended program design in that BCP was:

- Public libraries would be encouraged to apply for a series of grants (approximately \$25,000-\$35,000 per year) over a three-year period that would allow them to develop a Young Adult Services Program (ages 13-18) with a gradual increase of local support so that at the end of the three-year period, funding would become a local responsibility. Benchmarks would be developed for the first year: completion of a community-based needs assessment, development of a teen council, completion of a five year plan for Young Adult Services. Second and third years would see the development and implementation of services identified during the first year. Progress would be monitored before additional funding would be allocated.

That BCP did not appear in the Governor's Budget. The Board reaffirmed their interest in Young Adult Services and the Ad-Hoc Committee on Young Adult Services decided to link Young Adult Services to state funded initiatives for young adults.

A Young Adult Services Questionnaire was developed in August 1997 to assess the level of Young Adult Services on a statewide basis to see whether there were significant changes from data received from the earlier questionnaire. The response rate (87%) and the subsequent analysis showed little change and reaffirmed the interest in Young Adult Services. That report was presented to the CLSB and the library community in February 1998. The findings from the two questionnaires showed that:

- There are tremendous disparities between public library jurisdictions in the levels of public library services provided to young adults.
- There is a need to provide services that young adults are requesting (i.e., homework centers, access to computers, study space).
- There is a need for initiatives that allow local libraries the flexibility to develop programs and to customize services to better meet the needs of their local communities.
- There is a need to gain and ensure input from young adults in the shaping of local programs and services.
- There is a need for collections of materials with up-to-date information of interest and use to teens.

A Young Adult Services Forum held in September 1997 in Sacramento with representatives from over 70% of the public library jurisdictions statewide, school libraries, library educators, CLSB Members, and representatives from state agencies and a panel of local teens provided additional information on library service needs.

In May 1998 a report was presented to the CLSB and forwarded to the library community that outlined three preliminary program directions for a statewide Young Adult Services Program. They included:

PROGRAM DIRECTION A: Young Adult Service Program Based On Local Need

Focuses on four service thrusts which are related to statewide prevention and intervention initiatives. Libraries would choose no more than two service thrusts that best meet the needs of the local community and develop service program(s) that would result in public library service for local young adults.

PROGRAM DIRECTION B: Young Adult Service Program Based On Homework Centers

Focuses on one service thrust (Homework Centers) that is related to the statewide prevention and intervention mentoring initiative. Libraries would develop a service program based on homework centers that could include all or part of the three remaining service thrusts and develop a service plan that best meets the needs of young adults in local communities.

PROGRAM DIRECTION C: Young Adult Book Collections

Does not focus on any of the service thrusts but instead provides funding for public library jurisdictions to purchase materials for young adults.

The report “Preliminary Program Directions for a Statewide Young Adult Services Program” was forwarded to the library community and to the CLSB for their input and reactions. The response rate was 39% -- a significantly lower figure than the response rate to the two questionnaires. We believe that there are two factors that influenced the response rate. The mailing occurred around the time of the annual American Library Association Conference; the early spring/summer is a time when youth services staff are busy promoting summer reading programs and activities. The turn around time (timing) could not be changed--to do so would have prevented us from having a report for the August CLSB Meeting. The library community often doesn't respond if they are in agreement with what is being proposed. If they feel that the State library is not being responsive to their needs, the do make themselves heard. There was more support for two of the three program directions (Direction A and B).

APPENDIX III

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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- *** August 1994 CLSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Young Adult Services established to explore feasibility of developing a statewide Young Adult Services Program
- *** March 1995 Statewide questionnaire developed and sent to 171 public library jurisdictions to assess current level of existing service
- *** August 1995 Analysis of questionnaire presented to CLSB and sent to library community
- *** September 1995 Four statewide forums held to receive input on needs, issues, and wants of teens, community specialists and the library community
- *** November 1995 Report made to CLSB about input received at forums
- *** February 1996 Report outlining a series of four policy directions based on input received to date presented to CLSB and then mailed to the library community
- *** May 1996 CLSB reviewed analysis of input and considered a series of eight options related to program design. CLSB formally authorized development of a design for a Young Adult Services Program
- *** August 1996 CLSB adopted program design and recommended that a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) be prepared to augment the State Library Budget by \$1,000,000 for implementation of a statewide Young Adult Services Program
- *** January 1997 Statewide Young Adult Services program does not appear in Governor's Budget
- *** February 1997 CLSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Young Adult Services discusses options and brings recommendation(s) to CLSB; CLSB identified Young Adult Services as a priority for the coming year
- *** August 1997 Statewide questionnaire developed and sent to 174 public library jurisdictions to assess current level of existing service
- *** September 1997 Luncheon hosted by Dr. Starr for state agency heads from agencies that provide services/programs for young adults
- *** September 1997 A statewide forum was held in Sacramento to receive input on needs, issues and wants of teens, library community (public libraries, school libraries) and state agency representatives
- *** November 1997 Partial analysis of questionnaire presented to CLSB
- *** February 1998 Analysis of questionnaire presented to CLSB and sent to library community

- *** May 1998 Report on preliminary program design presented to CLSB and sent to library community
- *** August 1998 Program Design adopted by CLSB
- *** January 1999 Statewide Young Adult Services Program does not appear in Governor's Budget
- *** February 1999 Library of California Board reaffirms commitment to Young Adult Services
- *** August 1999 Library of California Board voted to pursue legislative vehicles to obtain funding to implement the Statewide Young Adult Services Program based on the program design that was previously adopted by the Board

SUMMARY OF DATA FROM MARCH 1995-1997 STATEWIDE QUESTIONNAIRES:

- *** 87% (98%) response rate: data analyzed in terms of type of library, geographic characteristics, size of service population, and relation to age definition by libraries in order to identify commonalities
- *** No clear cut uniform current patterns of Young Adult Services by any significant portion of California Public Libraries (Preliminary analysis of data from statewide questionnaires p. 2)
- *** Tremendous need to serve teens in our communities (Preliminary analysis of data from statewide questionnaires p. 2, p. 34-72)

(percentage in parenthesis refers to earlier questionnaire)

SUMMARY OF INPUT FROM LIBRARY COMMUNITY:

- *** Allow for flexibility that enables public libraries to design services that meet the needs of teens in local communities (Preliminary analysis of data from statewide questionnaires p. 34-72)
- *** Need to have input from teens (Preliminary analysis of data from statewide questionnaires p. 17, p. 38)

SUMMARY OF INPUT FROM TEENS:

- *** Homework assistance; technology; need a safe place to go; someone to listen to me; someone to treat me with respect; information about job skills, up to date information and books
(Similar input from all forums)

OUTCOMES:

- *** Provides teens with a safe harbor and lifelong learning opportunity during out of school hours

- *** Opens new avenues to teens for meeting their informational, educational and recreational needs
- *** Gives young adults an opportunity to participate in planning public library service
- *** Makes young adults recognize that they have choices and options

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL LOCAL LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

- *** Programs by Young Adult authors
- *** Public Library Homework Assistance Centers
- *** Technology Tutoring Program (could be intergenerational)

WHY PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

- *** Public libraries are the only institution that provided lifelong learning
- *** Public libraries have never been able to adequately develop Young Adult Services with their existing resources, even though a national study shows that 25% of public library users are teens.
- *** Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development report (1992) “A Matter of Time: Risk and Opportunity in the Out-of-School Hours” emphasizes the importance of involvement by the public library and reinforces the major role that public libraries must take in addressing Young Adult Services.
- *** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) report (1995) “Services and Resources for Children and Young Adults in Public Libraries” showed that three in five public library users are youth.
- *** Public libraries are community based learning centers which have tremendous potential to provide educational information and assistance, training, employment and support services for youth -- these preventive services are a cost effective investment in the future of youth in our state.

IMPACT:

- *** Implementation of a statewide Young Adult Services Program in public libraries, is a preventive approach to statewide problems and issues (teen pregnancy, school dropout, etc.) that will have an impact on California's economic, political, and cultural future by enabling young adults to reach their full potential as healthy, contributing adults in our society.

APPENDIX IV

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

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Implementation could begin immediately. The following timeline indicates the schedule for 2000-2001 implementation activities. Announcement could be made to the library community in March/April (similar to CLLS and FFL Programs) and grants could be awarded once the State Budget has been signed.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Announcement of Application Award Process									←→			
Initial Awards to local jurisdictions		←→										
YA Services Service Planning/Service Delivery									←→			
Evaluation/Monitoring									←→			
Mid Year Report								←→				
Final Reports											←→	