Libraries *and* COVID-19

Community assets for response, recovery, and resilience

Response

Libraries assist with COVID relief efforts in their communities.

- Producing personal protective equipment for health workers and first responders, , including face masks and shields
- Providing meeting space for emergency operations and staging for food and other distribution efforts
- Conducting community outreach and checking on seniors and other vulnerable populations

Libraries are vital sources of trusted information.

- Providing one-stop access to local, state, and federal public health resources and community alerts
- Partnering with local governments to alleviate stress on emergency services and respond to non-emergency inquiries

Libraries provide connectivity for communities of all sizes.

- Lending WiFi hotspots, laptop computers, or other devices and extending WiFi access to parking lots or other locations around their communities
- Continuing to support technology training and digital literacy by phone and online

School and academic libraries help their institutions pivot to remote learning.

- Digitizing instructional materials and organizing online teaching tools
- Delivering instruction, professional development, and research for students and faculty

Recovery

Libraries help their communities get to work.

- Assisting community members with job search, resume writing, and small business development
- Offering classes and one-on-one consulting for job seekers

Libraries connect people to critical information and services.

- Working with local governments to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 Census
- Providing access to government forms and services, from voter registration and driver's license renewal to tax forms and unemployment benefits

Libraries provide more than just digital connections.

- Bringing communities together with a diverse array of programming and events for all ages.
- Innovating to bridge the digital divide and reach all residents.

Libraries are integral to community healing —even moreso when it becomes safe to reopen their facilities.

Libraries are foundational to a community's social infrastructure, open to all for free. Librarians remain closely connected to their communities and tailor resources, programs, and services to meet community needs.

ALA American Library Association

*For information on how community leaders can work with libraries to support local response, recovery, and resilience, visit: **ala.org/advocacy/state-local-resources***