

## **ONAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY LONG RANGE PLAN**

### **I. Community description**

The City of Onawa is a small rural agriculturally related community with a population of 2849 in the 2017 Census. It is made of mostly lower to middle income families, with an ethnically diverse ancestry including, German, Irish, Native American, English, French, African American, Asian, and Hispanic. The population consists of 2.2% under age 5, 13% ages 5-19, 27.2% ages 20-44, 18.4% ages 45-59, and 27.6% 60 and older. The median age of the population is 41.6. There is an unemployment rate of 4.1% and the poverty level is 25.3%. There is an average of 2.25 people in 1475 total housing units.

Recreational facilities include 5 parks, a Community Center, an Aquatic Center, basketball courts, a skateboard park, disc golf course, a fairground complex, the Monona County Museum & Kiwanis Historical Complex, and the Veterans Museum. A state park is located just outside the city limits. The Lewis and Clark State Park is one of the most highly developed parks in the county. It includes modern and primitive camping areas, hiking trails and picnic areas.

Onawa is part of the West Monona School District, consisting of West Monona Elementary and a Middle/High school Complex.

The Onawa Public Library has been operating since 1903. It was supported by a dedicated group of individuals for many years, and was located in several buildings until 1908 when the original library building was build. The Library is a 14980 square foot prairie school style which meets all standards of ADA accessibility and is located along Iowa Avenue. The hours of the library are posted on a large sign on the outside window the vestibule. The library collection consists of 45733 books, 30 periodicals, 422 audio books, 11231 DVDs and 93 other library materials. Our patrons also have access to electronic resources including 49444 downloadable materials. There are 6 computers with Internet access for public use and 2 AWE computers in the children's area for educational purposes. The library complies with state standards for additions to materials, weeding, fill rates and turnover rates. The Library is a part of the Southwest Iowa Library Services Area, and a participant in the SILO and Open Access Programs.

The Onawa Public Library is able to offer its patrons the usual library services, such as circulation of books, videos, and audio books and other materials. Public access to computer, the Internet, WIFI, fax and photocopy machines with scan to email capabilities are also available. The Library also offers extended services of being a Passport Acceptance Facility, as well as Notary service. Programming includes a summer reading program and educational as well as entertainment programming. The library works with the school in supporting their curriculum.

The library is maintained and stablished according to the local ordinance and has a legally appointed library board consisting of 5 members to govern the operation of the library. The staff consists of one certified library director and 5 part-time assistants. Funds for support of the library come from the City of Onawa, Monona County, State of Iowa, memorial trust accounts, and other miscellaneous sources.

Area residents will have access to essential library services, delivered in an efficient and effective manner.

## **II. Assessment of Needs**

In keeping with the mission of the Onawa Public Library that states:

The Onawa Public Library provides the residents of Onawa and the surrounding area with access to books and library materials and to other resources, programs and services to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. The library promotes reading and the use of library materials, and provides support for community, cultural and historical activities. Through its staff, Board and services, the library builds knowledge, understanding and appreciation of libraries and library materials in those it serves.

The library Board and Staff have set certain goals and objectives to exemplify this mission in our daily operation.

We sought to determine the needs of community by means of a survey and a focus group. The group met at the library and after a SWOT assessment guided by the input of all the members of the group. With this SWOT Analysis of our community the following 4 areas were deemed the optimal services areas that our community would like addressed.

These areas are 1.) Create young readers: Emergent literacy 2.) Be informed citizens: local, national and world affairs. 3.) Connect to the online world: Public Internet access. 4.) Express creativity: Create and share content.

### Goals and Objectives FY 2020 - 2025

#### **Goal 1: Create young readers: Emergent literacy**

##### **Young patrons will have programming opportunities that promote literacy.**

Objective:

- Increase participation levels of the Summer Reading Program by 2% each year to ensure that our children are exposed to the necessity of reading and the joy of learning and reading for pleasure.
- Revival of our Pre-school Story time to promote reading together as a family to foster the love of reading at an early age. We will hopefully increase numbers in attendance by 2% in the first three years, then 1% each year in 2023 thru 2025.
- We will partner with our local associations or other libraries when they have programming designed that supports the importance of reading to children by parents and caregivers.
- To help our younger readers we will work to expand our “Early/Easy Reader section and divide it into 3 sections: 1, 2, 3 for the different skill levels of reading so that a child is not discouraged by a difficult read. (FY 2020, 2022)

**Goal 2: Be informed citizens: local, national, and world affairs.**

**Patrons will have opportunities to participate in civic events.**

Objective

- Partner with the local American Legion Auxiliary to host legislative coffees where people can interact with their local and state political representatives on a continuing basis.
- Support political candidates by facilitating political candidates' forums in our meeting room during upcoming election cycles.
- Partner with Chamber of Commerce to provide Informational luncheons on an ongoing basis.
- Provide a space for the city when they want to have public informational meetings.

**Goal 3: Connect to the online world: Public Internet access.**

**Patrons will have access to up to date computers and Internet Access**

Objective

- Upgrade the computers and software in the library on an annual basis set up on a rotational schedule. 2 patron computers in FY 2021, 1 patron and 1 staff computer in FY 2022 and possible software upgrades if available (2023), 2 computers and possible printer in 2024, 1 staff computer (2025).
- Annual training to ensure that our staff is up to date with the systems, computers, and software that we have in place.
- Work with our patrons on the 1 – 1 basis as needed to improve their computer skills or learn new aspects of using computers on an ongoing and established schedule. Technology petting zoo or tech seminars (2024)

**Goal 4: Express creativity: create and share content.**

**Patrons will have opportunities to create and share content**

Objective

- Provide more interactive programming; i.e.: Weekly Adult Coloring Program: Quarterly Author visits: Semi-Annual Musical entertainment. Yearly continuing (2020 -) Annual Outdoor summer programming continuing and expanding yearly
- Craft day during the summer reading program to not only inspire reading, but also creativity.
- Begin having annual activities on our lawn to bring community members and families together to foster a positive community spirit by sharing time and local talent of our community members.

Revised: 12, 2019