



The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Strategic Plan Summary

This strategic plan focuses on positioning the MBLC, its affiliates and partners, and the library community more generally to increase their effectiveness and impact, to make the best use of existing and projected resources, and to align effort and investment in ways that maximize libraries' value to their communities. It is not an inventory of new program directions, principally because the resource picture remains unstable and unpredictable, and the positioning and alignment work must come first. In that sense, this is the right plan at the right time.

- 1) The strategic plan is a living document that will evolve as circumstances change. It was developed on the basis of a **participatory process** involving MBLC Commissioners and staff as well as a broad and diverse group of representatives from throughout the statewide system of libraries and library support organizations.
- 2) The core messages in the stakeholder input gathered to inform planning were:
 - a) Concerns about **funding**, especially the unpredictable future of federal funding;
 - b) The need for greater **clarity** about roles and responsibilities within the statewide system of library support organizations;
 - c) The need for **leadership** that can promote and catalyze greater **coordination and alignment** throughout the statewide system;
 - d) Opportunities, through **partnerships** at the state and local level, to expand the reach and impact of libraries in their communities.
- 3) The primary themes of the MBLC strategic plan are:
 - a) A strong and proactive **leadership** role for the MBLC in the library community;
 - b) Establishing greater **clarity** regarding the roles within the statewide system of support for libraries;
 - c) Guidelines for creating **state-level partnerships** that broaden the role and impact of libraries.
- 4) The plan focuses on **state-level leadership, alignment, partnerships, clarity, and accountability**, rather than specific plans for specific programs, because creating a more highly functioning and aligned statewide system must come first.
- 5) The plan includes a revised **mission** stressing the MBLC's leadership role, a **vision** of libraries and of the statewide system that functions as a definition of long-term success, and a set of **guiding principles** that define the role and approach of the MBLC.

The MBLC mission is:

As the agency of state government with the statutory authority and responsibility to organize, develop, coordinate, and improve library services throughout the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) works to provide every person in Massachusetts with full and equal access to outstanding library services, to promote innovation and collaboration, and to position libraries at the center of civic life in their communities.

To view the MBLC's Strategic Plan, please visit: <http://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/strategic-plan/>