



EQUITABLE CITY/COUNTY FUNDING NEEDED FOR GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY

THE SITUATION

The Library is a valued community resource, providing free services to people throughout Itasca County. The Library is funded by local City of Grand Rapids and Itasca County tax dollars.

	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	ITASCA COUNTY
LIBRARY USE (CHECK-OUTS)	< 50 %	> 50 %
LIBRARY SUPPORT (IN TAX DOLLARS)	84 %	16 %
PER CAPITA SUPPORT (IN TAX DOLLARS)	\$66.67	\$13.50
	<i>The City has continued to increase their share up to \$350,000 above the minimum required level, as calculated by the State of MN (Dept. of Education), and faces challenges to sustain this level.</i>	<i>Itasca County is supporting the Library near the level it did in 2012.</i>

In recent years, the Library has undergone service cuts (both in open hours and staffing), due to inadequate funding from Itasca County. The City needs cooperation from the County to sustain Library services with an equitable funding model, based on actual use.

THE SOLUTION

A Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and Itasca County to ensure equitable funding is the only way to maintain this community resource and prevent further service cuts. The City of Grand Marais and Cook County have had a successful agreement since 1992, illustrating that this type of partnership is successful and sustainable.