



Metropolitan Library Service Agency

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Strategic Plan 2026-2028

Purpose Statement

Through collaboration, MELSA communicates, expands access, invests in, and advocates for strong public libraries.



DEFINE AND COMMUNICATE MELSA'S ROLE

- 1.1** Consistently clarify MELSA's role and scope of work with internal and external partners.
- 1.2** Enhance communication among MELSA, its member libraries, and their communities.
- 1.3** Lead membership in creating equitable access to resources and experiences for the communities they serve.



EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ERESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

- 2.1** Leverage resources to best meet overall need for eResources and digital collections.
- 2.2** Support equitable access to technology for all member libraries.



INVEST IN LIBRARY COLLABORATION

- 3.1** Collaboratively curate and connect members and MELSA staff to professional training opportunities.
- 3.2** Facilitate collaboration and networking opportunities for MELSA and member libraries.
- 3.3** Support and cultivate programs and services responsive to the needs of our member libraries.



ADVOCATE FOR THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- 4.1** In collaboration with members raise public awareness, support, and value for libraries.
- 4.2** Work with partners, state agencies, and legislators at all levels to benefit member libraries and the communities they serve.

MELSA means Dakota County Library can provide more services *without* putting the full cost on local taxpayers



More Digital Resources

eBooks, audiobooks, online learning, and homework help shared across the metro



Shared Technology

Library apps, online catalogs, and systems that help libraries work together



More Efficient Spending

Libraries share costs instead of each library paying separately for the same services



More Access for Residents

Dakota County residents can access materials and services from libraries across the Twin Cities metro

Nearly \$1 Million

in annual services, technology, and resources provided to Dakota County Library through MELSA

2025 MELSA Benefits to Dakota County

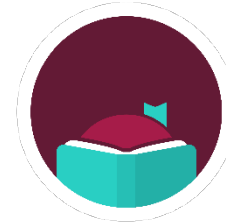
Direct Funding:

General Operations	\$284,117
Programming	\$35,555
Staff Training	\$27,511
Arts and Culture Funds	\$147,782
Telecommunications	<u>\$46,680</u>
Total	\$541,645

An additional \$417,261 in value is received from collaborative projects such as Libby, e-resources, Interlibrary Loan, promotion and community partnerships.

Total Value to Dakota County \$958,906

With MELSA



Libby.



CRAFT & HOBBY



COLLABORATIVE LITERACY PROJECT



Learning for Every Chapter



Together, we're building a metro where learning is accessible, inclusive, and lifelong. Contact your local library to explore programs designed for your community.

Dakota County's Collaborative Literacy Project

Helping more children become confident readers

What This Program Would Provide

- Easy-to-read books that help children practice reading skills
- Engaging books for older kids who struggle with reading
- More materials that match how reading is taught in schools today



Why It Matters

- Helps families find the right books for their children
- Gives kids more opportunities to practice reading outside of school
- Supports students who may be falling behind
- Builds stronger partnerships between libraries and schools

Strong reading skills help children succeed in school and beyond.



Dakota County's Collaborative Literacy Project

Connecting students with one-on-one reading support

What This Pilot Program Would Provide

- Volunteer reading tutors trained through Reading Partners
- Reading activities and lessons for students
- Chromebooks for tutors to use during sessions

Why the Library?

- Libraries are trusted community spaces for learning
- The program would give families another place to find academic support
- The pilot will help determine whether the program could grow in the future

Extra reading support can make a lifelong difference for struggling readers.

