



PANHANDLE PUBLIC LIBRARY COOPERATIVE SYSTEM

LONG RANGE PLAN

OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System provides users access to materials and programs that assist in meeting their recreational, informational, and lifelong learning needs.

COOPERATIVE PROFILE

The Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System (PPLCS) is located in the Florida Panhandle and is comprised of Calhoun, Holmes, and Jackson County Public Library Systems, and one administrative office. PPLCS is a Florida Special District and was established in October 1992 through an Interlocal Agreement between the three County governments. PPLCS is governed by a nine member Board comprised of the three Directors of the member library systems, and an additional two members appointed by each County. The Cooperative office is managed by an Administrator, and is entirely funded by the Florida State Aid to Libraries Grant Program, and other grant opportunities. The member libraries are funded from a combination of local government funds, State Aid to Libraries Grant funding, other grants, and donations.

The Calhoun County Library System consists of a headquarters library in Blountstown, and five branch libraries: Altha, Hugh Creek, Kinard, Mossy Pond, and Shelton Park.

The Holmes County Library System is located in Bonifay.

The Jackson County Library System has a headquarters library in Marianna and branch libraries in Graceville and Greenwood.

The PPLCS administrative office is located in Marianna.

PPLCS serves an estimated population of 80,136* and covers more than 1,963 square miles. The service area is primarily rural, with the largest urban concentrations in Blountstown, Bonifay, and Marianna.* *United States Census Bureau, July 2019.*

Population:

	Population <u>2010</u>	Population <u>2019 est.</u>	Population change <u>2010-2019</u>	No. of persons <u>per sq. mile</u>
Calhoun	14,625	14,105	-3.6%	25.8
Holmes	19,927	19,617	-1.5%	41.6
Jackson	49,746	46,414	-6.7%	54

U.S. Census Bureau retrieved Sept. 2020

Universal Services (E-rate) eligibility:

	Total # of students	# Eligible for NSLP	% Eligible for NSLP
Calhoun	2,197	2,184	72.2
Holmes	3,248	3,248	63.05
Jackson	6,482	6,432	79.4

FL Department of Management Services/ FY 20-21 E-rate Discount Calculation

Income:

	Median household income <u>(in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018</u>	Per capita income in past 12 mos. <u>(in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018</u>	% of pop. <u>in poverty</u>
Calhoun	\$38,609	\$18,921	21.3*
Holmes	\$38,608	\$18,574	23.9*
Jackson	\$39,002	\$18,882	23.5*

U.S. Census Bureau retrieved Sept. 2020

**2018 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Estimates are not comparable to other geographical areas of poverty estimates.*

Age:

	% under <u>5 yrs*</u>	% under <u>18 yrs*</u>	% 65 yrs and <u>older*</u>
Calhoun	4.8	19.9	18.9
Holmes	5.6	20.4	20.0
Jackson	5.2	18.9	20.6

Vintage 2019 Population Estimates Program. Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources.

Education:

	<u>High School Graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+, 2014-2018</u>	<u>Bachelor's Degree or higher, % of persons 25+, 2014-2018</u>
Calhoun	78.1	9.9
Holmes	77.4	10.3
Jackson	80.7	13.4

U.S. Census Bureau retrieved Sept. 2020

STRENGTHS OF THE COOPERATIVE

1. A spirit of cooperation among member libraries and the close-knit communities they serve makes for a system responsive to its user's needs.
2. Training opportunities are abundant for staff to learn innovative approaches to library services and programming, as well as new trends in technology.
3. Cooperative administration is proactive in pursuing new grant opportunities and community partnerships.
4. Member libraries and Cooperative administration provide a variety of programs for all ages, with emphasis on youth during the annual Summer Reading Program.
5. Member libraries enjoy support from the community: they are considered a necessary and invaluable service.
6. PPLCS provides a robust collection of electronic titles in both print and audio formats, and offers access to the wide array of databases available within the Florida Electronic Library.
7. Member libraries provide users with both computer access and Wi-Fi, as well as printers at all locations.

CHALLENGES TO THE COOPERATIVE

1. PPLCS counties are in the top tier of Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern with:
 - a. Low per capita income
 - b. Low per capita taxable values
 - c. High unemployment

- d. Low weekly earned wages compared to the state average
 - e. Low housing values compared to the state average
 - f. High percentage of the population receiving public assistance
 - g. High poverty levels compared to the state average
 - h. Lack of year-round stable employment opportunities
2. PPLCS serves communities that have high illiteracy and school dropout rates.
 3. Calhoun and Jackson counties were severely affected by Hurricane Michael in October 2018, a category five storm that caused \$18.4 billion in damages to Florida. Due to the damage of homes and businesses in these areas, the population has declined rather than increase as previously estimated.
 4. Member counties have inadequate broadband and/or high-speed internet infrastructure.
 5. Member libraries are understaffed and lack funding.

GOALS OF THE COOPERATIVE

The goals of the Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System are:

Goal 1: Provide library users of all ages access to current bestsellers and the most up-to-date information in both physical and virtual formats.

Activities:

- Staff will respond to material requests from users promptly- as budgets allow- continually improving and updating physical and virtual collections in response to community needs.
- Libraries will periodically weed their collections for outdated materials and conduct inventory of their holdings.
- Libraries will provide access to the Florida Electronic Library (FEL), which provides current information on a variety of topics.

Goal 2: Provide proficient, courteous, and professional staff at all locations.

Activities:

- Staff will be continuously trained on customer-service related concepts and library policies.

- Online and in-person training opportunities will be utilized when staff time and library budgets allow.
- New hires will be trained on the use of the integrated library system and PPLCS-subscribed databases.

Goal 3: Member libraries have suitable facilities to provide library services.

Activities:

- Staff will maintain equipment inventories and will replace outdated or defective equipment as budgets allow.
- Libraries will be responsive to the technology needs of users and supplement existing equipment when budgets allow.
- Staff will seek to expand services into underserved areas of each county.

Goal 4: Offer alternative ways for the public to utilize library services in order to follow social distancing guidelines and provide for the safety of users and staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Activities:

- Staff will evaluate the usage of online resources and virtual collections in order to provide the most benefit to the majority of users.
- The use of non-traditional services such as curbside pickup and virtual programming will be evaluated as an alternative to in-person or onsite library experiences.