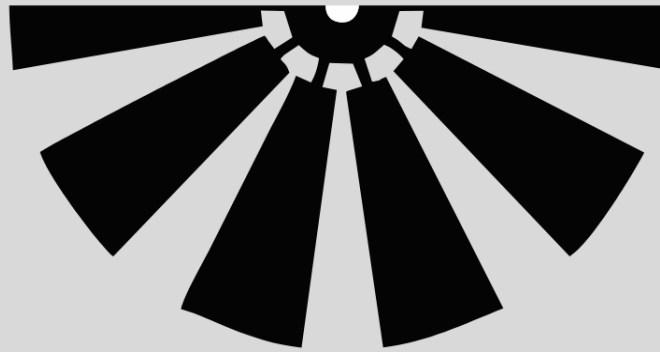




Kimball Public Library



***2024-2029***

***Community Needs***

***Response Plan***

# Kimball Public Library

## Kimball, NE

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Kimball Public Library enriches our community by encouraging and supporting lifelong literacy through free and open access to books, cultural activities, and technology.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Kimball, NE is a rural community. It is located off I80, 20 miles from Wyoming and 17 miles from Colorado.

According to the 2020 census, Kimball County has a population of 3,434. 2,290 of these individuals are located in the city of Kimball. 29.9% of the population is over 65 years old. The median age is 41.6 years old. 12.3% of the population is under the age of 19. 85.3% of the population has an educational level of high school or above. The median household income is \$53,151 which is lower than the state average by \$16,446. Kimball County has a poverty rate of 10%.

### COMMUNITY NEEDS

The City of Kimball conducted a community needs assessment in 2023. The accreditation committee used this assessment to analyze the needs of the community. The following are the most prevalent needs that they expressed.

1. Education and recreation opportunities

Kimball has a community pool and 3 community parks, including a baseball field and archery range. The pool is sinking, 2 of the parks are in need of new equipment and cleanup. Based on the community survey, there is a desire to see more organized community functions involving youth. Kimball does not have a community college in our county.

2. Attract Young Families

Due to the lack of adequate childcare facilities, after-school opportunities, and recreational facilities, Kimball has a difficult time attracting and keeping young people and families. Youth that are raised in our community often leave for college and never return.

3. Alternative School Support

According to the community survey, 25% of the youth in the city and county attend an alternative form of school, homeschooling, online private school, or commuting to other counties. The community would benefit from support with information on their options and social support for the young people.

4. Community Involvement and Communication

Kimball has a large quantity of nonprofit and community enrichment groups. Unfortunately, the support of these groups is solely consisting of the elderly and retired people in the community. There is a need to attract younger ones to support these community outreach programs.

5. Support Resources

Kimball needs clear and easy-to-access resources for mental, economic, housing, and senior care.

## Kimball Public Library's Strengths

- Kimball Makerspace
- Library of Things Collection
- Active Friends of the Library Group
- Staff that values the community and the services we provide
- Partnership with the Panhandle Consortium
- Partnership with Plains Genealogy Society
- Lettuce Grow hydroponics tower
- Regularly updated computers with enough to provide for the community's needs
- Well supported by the city council and county commissioners
- Plentiful in youth programming and well-attended
- Location
- Library staff excels at finding, applying for, and receiving grants

## Library Barriers and Opportunities

- Older building without space to grow
- Lack of adequate parking
- Stagnant funding
- Staff time is limited
- Adult programming has a lack of attendees
- No small meeting rooms for study, meetings, etc.

The community of Kimball needs resources for information, recreation, and education. The Kimball Public Library can work to assist with these needs in many ways. The library has multiple options for youth programming and a well-trained, enthusiastic staff. The Friends of the Kimball Library are a great resource for the community to interact with one another and become involved in community activities. The library has access to resources, support systems, and varied connections.

## Kimball Public Library Goals and Action Plan

1. **Community Need:** Adult and youth education programs, continuing education programs, and recreational programming.

1. **Goal:** Develop and maintain Kimball Public Library as a lifelong learning center.

### Action Items:

- A. Establish a partnership with Western Nebraska Community College to offer recreational and education non-credit courses for adults.
- B. Continue reciprocal agreement with the Panhandle Consortium and the Nebraska Library Commission.
- C. Continue Library Explorers after-school program to assist schools with educational gaps and encourage library use and literacy.
- D. Maintain GED partnerships with Western Nebraska Community College.
- E. Offer technology workshops quarterly
- F. Work with the Department of Labor Veteran Affairs to offer veteran training and resources

2. **Community Need:** Support for alternative options. 25% of the community uses education options other than Kimball Public Schools.

2. **Goal:** Establish information and support services for the community for alternative youth education options. Offer programming for youth to assist with social interaction.

### Action items:

- A. Compile a resource list of home school and online private school options.
- B. Work with Workforce Development to facilitate partnerships and information sessions for youth and parents.
- C. Hold annual college, trade, and vocational fairs for graduating youth.

3. **Community Need:** Central location for information, resources, and support
3. **Goal:** To maintain ongoing goals for the library in order to remain an effective part of the community.

Action Items:

- A. To operate as an integral part of the American Library Association, the Nebraska Library Association, and the Western Library System utilizing the resources provided by these agencies.
  - B. To work with the Friends of the Kimball Library to further the use of the library.
  - C. To maintain a paid staff adequate to meet the needs of the library. Volunteer work will be used by the Library Director and/or the Library Board of Trustees.
4. **Community Need:** Kimball needs clear and easy-to-access resources for mental, economic, housing, and senior care.
  4. **Goal:** Assist professionals, individuals, non-profits, and other resources to connect.

Action Items:

- A. Provide private meeting rooms to assist mental health professionals in meeting with patients in our community.
- B. Establish a resource book for senior care options for caregivers and seniors
- C. Offer regular information sessions for caregivers and seniors to assist in connecting with elder care options
- D. Work with the Panhandle Public Health Department to provide information and resources to those in need.

## Accomplishments and Evaluation

The Kimball Public Library has gone through many changes since 2018. In 2020, the library director retired, and the assistant director took over. In 2020, the library installed a maker space. This space included a laser cutter, 3-D printer, vinyl cutter, and more. This has allowed the community to learn skills and create new businesses. In 2021, the library used funds donated to create a new collection, called Library of Things. In 2023 the library received a grant to add a hydroponics tower. This gave the community a new way to learn about fresh-grown food, gave them the chance to try new vegetables, and helped children learn about nutrition. The library had a goal to create a volunteer program. Volunteers work regularly in the library now. Evaluation will be completed by annual review of the Community Needs Plan. This will be completed by the staff and the library board. As well as, by attendance at the programs and community feedback.

Reviewed and Approved 07/8/2024