

**Goal 4: Eligible Nebraskans will have access to Talking Book and Braille Service.**

**Need:** According to Library of Congress estimates, 1.6% of Nebraskans or 27,380 citizens, are unable to use standard print material because of a visual, physical, or reading disability, and therefore would be eligible for Talking Book and Braille Service through the Nebraska Library Commission. Talking Book and Braille Service staff served 3,538 individual borrowers and 302 deposit sites in 2002, less than 13% of the potential customers in Nebraska. The number of registered borrowers has declined from 4,197 individual borrowers and 424 deposit sites in 1998 to current levels.

**Activities:**

**4A.** Distribute Talking Book and Braille materials and playback equipment to eligible Nebraskans.

**4B.** Identify and record materials of special interest to Nebraska borrowers.

**4C.** Provide reader advisory services to assist eligible Nebraskans in selecting materials.

**4D.** Provide outreach services, with special emphasis on targeting provision of services to children and young adults.

**4E.** Recruit and train volunteers to assist in recording of materials and related talking book and Braille processes.

**4F.** Monitor and test new technologies developed by the National Library Service for delivery of digital talking books.

*Intended Outcomes:*

1. Awareness and participation in the Talking Book and Braille program will increase.
2. Use of Talking Book and Braille materials will increase.
3. Volunteer number and hours will increase.
4. The number and quality of locally recorded materials will increase.
5. Local library personnel will promote Talking Book and Braille services.
6. An implementation plan for transition of talking book materials from analog to digital format will be developed.