NOBLE Contingency Plan

Risks to NOBLE Budget

During the budget-planning Executive Board meetings in August and September of each year, the Board will identify any potential risks that should be accommodated in the next fiscal year's budget. Risks impacting the NOBLE budget might include:

1. Significant decrease in MBLC grant funding
2. Widespread inability for NOBLE libraries to incorporate assessment increases in their budget.
3. The loss of (a) NOBLE member(s).
4. Continued increases to the CPI that places a significant burden on NOBLE's ability to keep up with cost increases.

Contingency Actions

NOBLE will take the following actions in the following order to address the above cases.

- Allocate general unrestricted funds to offset potential assessment increases, decreased revenue or increased costs. Any allocation should keep the general unrestricted fund within its target level.
- Place a moratorium on new services that cost money.
- Take cost-cutting measures

NOBLE will not address, through a contingency action, the inability for a specific library to incorporate assessment increases in their budget. Allowing specific member libraries to request a reduced assessment to accommodate budget shortfalls could inadvertently provide implicit permission to funding authorities to further reduce library budgets.

Transition Steps

As NOBLE spends down the unrestricted funds, either through the normal budgeting process or as a contingency action, the budget will need to slowly reduce its dependence on these funds. Otherwise, members could experience large assessment increases to make up for these funds after they are spent down. Once NOBLE reaches approximately 40% above the unrestricted funds target level (not including the PC support account balance), NOBLE will gradually reduce the amount of unrestricted funds allocated in the annual budget by 25% per year.

Approved at the Annual Meeting of the Members: 5/21/2026