

**APPENDIX D:
JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY
SOUTHBRIDGE, MA
ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY NEEDS**

During the July 13, 2004 meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee, the group developed a list of needs that the Jacob Edwards Memorial Library can help fulfill.

Community needs the Jacob Edwards Memorial Library might address either independently or in collaboration with a partner (such as the Literacy Coalition, the Southbridge school system, or the Senior Center Collaboration) include:

Educational needs

- Adult education opportunities
- Parenting Classes
- GED Classes
- Literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Collaboration with Schools to develop special projects, (i.e. homework center, summer reading lists, information literacy training)

Recreational/Programming needs

- Senior Programming (Senior Center Collaboration)
- Youth Programming and Services
- Budgeting for families (help families understand priorities)
- Build on community diversity
- Opportunity for Volunteers to use expertise to provide programs, or work in library

Marketing

- Provide current information about Southbridge for Town Marketing Material

As the library's Long Range Planning Committee talked about needs that Southbridge residents' have, a number of community needs that are probably beyond the scope of the Jacob Edwards Memorial Library to address were brought up. These needs include:

Access needs

- Need to provide access (elevators) to buildings
- Urban Renewal Plan (funding)
- Lack of Handicap accessibility to town buildings and handicapped parking

Economic development needs

- Industrial Park (business)
- Access to town roads and traffic on roads is stressful for residents
- Welcome tax breaks

Open Space (and Trails) needs

- Public transportation
- Toddler Space (playgrounds)

Quality of life needs

- Think of Diversity as a positive: Build on potential, restaurants, small businesses
- Potential for Volunteers to work with town organizations, town committees, schools