Q: How can I pay for my PLAC?
A: Issuing libraries may accept cash or check made out to the library issuing the PLAC. Libraries that accept cards as payment may also accept payment via credit or debit card.

Q: Do I have to pay overdues or replacement fees for items I borrow on my PLAC?
A: Yes. Each individual library determines the daily overdue fee for library materials loaned to PLAC cardholders. The replacement cost of an item will be determined by the lending library.

If you still have questions, please contact StatewideServices@library.in.gov.

Indiana Public Library Access Card (PLAC) FAQ



Indiana Public Library Access Card (PLAC)

The Public Library Access Card (PLAC) is the statewide library card program enacted by the Indiana General Assembly in 1993 (Indiana Code 4-23-7.1-5.1). The PLAC program allows individuals to purchase a card which allows them to borrow materials directly from any public library in Indiana.

Any individual who holds a valid Indiana public library card may purchase a PLAC card which is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. The cost of the card is reviewed and adjusted annually by the Indiana Library & Historical Board (ILHB). The fee for 2027 is $70.00. The Indiana State Library collects the revenue from the sale of these cards distributes it back to libraries on the basis of net loans.

PLAC FAQ

Q: What is PLAC?
A: The Public Library Access Card (PLAC) is the name for a statewide library card, enacted by law (Indiana Code 4-23-7.1-5.1), which allows individuals in "good standing" at their home library to borrow materials from any public library in the state.

Q: Are public libraries required to participate in the statewide library card (PLAC) program?
A: Yes. According to Indiana Code 36-12-3-2 and Indiana Code 36-12-7-2 all public libraries "shall comply with and participate in the statewide library card program."

Q: What types of materials are eligible for loan in the PLAC program?
A: Books and select non-book materials. Each public library will annually determine what types of materials will be loaned to PLAC cardholders, but at least books that normally circulate must be available for loan.

Q: Does the PLAC include access to e-books, databases and other online resources?
A: No. E-books, databases and other online resources are licensed locally for the home users of that library and may not be available to PLAC holders. The PLAC only allows users to borrow books and select other materials. The list of available items will vary from library to library, according to local policy.

Q: Is there a fee for the PLAC?
A: Yes. According to IC 4-23-7.1-5.1, the fee for the card is established annually by the Indiana Library & Historical Board (ILHB) based not less than 40 percent of the current average operating fund expenditure per borrower by all eligible public libraries as compiled and reported annually by the Indiana State Library in the annual "Statistics of Indiana Libraries." (Indiana Code 4-23-7.1-5.10)

Q: If I later decide that I don't need my PLAC, can I get a refund?
A: No. PLAC fees are *not* refundable.

Q: Who is eligible for a PLAC?
A: Anyone who holds a valid library card issued by a public library in the state may purchase a PLAC. In order to receive a Public Library Access Card individuals must have a valid “resident” or a non-resident library card, as required by IC 4-23-7.1-5.1. The fee for a non-resident card is at least $25.00 or the library’s operating fund expenditure per capita if that amount is greater than $25.00, plus the PLAC fee.

Q: How is the PLAC used?
A: Individuals need to present the PLAC on their initial visit to the library and go through the registration process for that particular library.

Q: When does my PLAC expire?
A: The PLAC expires one year from the date of application for the card. At that time, the PLAC cardholder would need to reapply and pay for a new PLAC card.

Q: Why is there a fee for the PLAC?
A: The PLAC fee is used to help cover the cost of borrowing books owned by other libraries.

Q: May anyone in my family use the PLAC?
A: No. According to IC 4-23-7.1-5.1 the PLAC is always issued to an individual.

Q: I only need a card for a short while. Is there a discount for a six month or three month PLAC?
A: No. According to IC 4-23-7.1-5.1 the PLAC is valid for one year and the annual rate is set annually by the ILHB.

Q: Must materials borrowed on a PLAC be returned to the lending library?
A: Yes. PLAC cardholders should be informed that they are expected to return materials borrowed using a PLAC to the lending library.

Q: May a PLAC be issued to a child?
A: Yes. However, local libraries may have additional restrictions on materials that children may borrow.

Q: If I lose my PLAC, can I get a replacement card?
A: Yes. Replacement card can be obtained at the library where the PLAC was originally issued. The fee for the replacement card will be $1. The expiration date for replacement cards remains the same as the original card.

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