



TELECOMMUTING POLICY

This policy applies to the Aurora Town Public Library, a contracting member library of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Aurora Town Public Library (ATPL) considers telecommuting to be a viable, flexible work option when both the employee and the job are suited to such an arrangement. For the purposes of this policy, telecommuting is defined as a remote-access arrangement wherein employees will be compensated for work completed outside their regularly assigned work location for at least part of the workweek on a regular basis, or on a temporary basis as the result of extenuating circumstances.

The ATPL recognizes that not every job is suited for telecommuting; many jobs are not suitable because the ATPL is a public service organization, and providing service to patrons within the building is core to the Library's mission. Further, telecommuting is a privilege, which may be granted under appropriate circumstances to eligible employees, and is not a universal employee benefit. This privilege will be granted in a nondiscriminatory manner with consideration given to all the factors set forth within this policy.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Only full-time and regular-part-time (RPT) employees, or part-time employees where practicable, who have been in their positions for at least 6 months may apply for participation in a telecommuting arrangement, unless otherwise negotiated as part of a collective bargaining agreement or benefit plan, or as the result of extenuating circumstances requiring a telecommuting arrangement.
- B. Employees must have and maintain a satisfactory performance record, including a demonstrated ability to work well with minimal supervision, a thorough knowledge of their job tasks and operations, a history of reliable and responsible accomplishment of work duties, and a record of effective communication with supervisors, coworkers, support staff, and patrons.
- C. Any record of disciplinary action for conduct within the last 2 years may be grounds for ineligibility.
- D. Telecommuting is not available for long-distance or out-of-state work. Employees are expected to abide by any residency requirements of their position, and be able to report to their regularly assigned work location as needed.

III. GUIDELINES

- A. The approval of a telecommuting arrangement is made based on the ability of the ATPL to maintain full operations, services, and commitments. Telecommuting may not be appropriate for all job titles or for all positions within a job title.
- B. In all cases, telecommuting schedules are subject to the approval of the Director and Human Resources.
- C. Requests for a telecommuting arrangement as an accommodation must be made in accordance with the *B&ECPL Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter VII, Section 3 Reasonable Accommodations*.
- D. Telecommuting employees must be accessible, within reason, via telephone and email during their agreed working hours.
- E. Employees must abide by all ATPL as well as B&ECPL Personnel Policies and Procedures while telecommuting, including but not limited to those contained in *Section V, Hours of Work and Break Periods* and *Section VII, Types of Leave*.
 - 1. Failure to abide by ATPL and B&ECPL policies will result in disciplinary action.
 - 2. Abuse of telecommuting arrangements may result in termination of the agreement.
- F. The employee is responsible for providing space, telephone, printing, networking and/or Internet capabilities and security at the telecommuting work location, and shall not be reimbursed by the Aurora Town Public Library or B&ECPL System for these or related expenses.
 - 1. Expenses incurred in the implementation and execution of remote work arrangements require the approval of the Director.
 - 2. Standard office supplies (such as paper and pens) will be provided by the County and should be obtained by the employee at their regularly assigned work location.
 - 3. Out-of-pocket expenses for supplies normally available at the regularly assigned work location will not be reimbursed.
- G. The ATPL is not required to provide equipment for the telecommuting work location. However, with proper approval, the employee may be provided with Library-owned equipment necessary to perform work assignments.
 - 1. Employees provided with equipment must use all security controls and safeguards at all times.
 - 2. Employees working at telecommuting work locations are expected to abide by the *B&ECPL Information Technology Security Policy Manual*, including but not limited to *Section 7, Virtual Private Network (VPN) Policy*, and the *B&ECPL Computers, Communications, and Related Technology Policy (Chapter X, Section 1)*.
 - 3. Employee access to the ATPL network shall be limited to equipment the Library owns to ensure network security.
 - a. When access to network is required to complete functions of the job, a laptop owned by the ATPL will be provided.

- b. Employees who have telecommuting arrangements shall not allow anyone, except ATPL employees, to use or access equipment provided by the Library (including hardware, software, and storage devices) and services.

- 4. All ATPL-provided equipment must be returned promptly upon termination of the telecommuting arrangement.
- 5. Files and documents must be protected from unauthorized disclosure or damage and returned safely to the regularly assigned work location immediately upon request.
- 6. ATPL information stored on an employee's personal computer is subject to public disclosure requirements.

H. In agreeing to a remote work arrangement, the employee is confirming that their telecommuting work location is a safe and appropriate work space, which is free of safety and fire hazards.

- 1. Employees must not use their telecommuting work locations to receive work-related visitors or host work-related meetings or events, except meetings or events conducted virtually.
- 2. The ATPL will not be held responsible for any and all claims, excluding workers' compensation claims, which result from working at the telecommuting work location.
 - a. In the event of a job-related incident, accident, or injury during working hours, the employee shall report the incident to their supervisor and Human Resources within 24 hours and follow established procedures to report and investigate workplace incidents, accidents, or injuries.
 - b. The employee must allow inspections of the employee's work area(s), home office, or other relevant location(s) to be conducted by the ATPL or its agents if a job-related incident, accident, or injury has occurred.

I. Telecommuting arrangements shall not be used as a substitute for dependent child care, unless preauthorized by Human Resources due to extenuating circumstances. Employees who work remotely are expected to make dependent or child care arrangements during the period they will be working.

J. Telecommuting is not intended to enable employees to conduct personal or non ATPL business while on ATPL time.

K. An employee's participation in a telecommuting plan is entirely voluntary.

L. Either the employee or their supervisor may terminate the telecommuting arrangement at any time.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. If the employee and job are deemed suitable for a remote work arrangement, the employee and supervisor must complete a Telecommuting Agreement specifying the terms, conditions, and rationale for the remote work. The Agreement is subject to approval by the Director.

B. The original agreement must be forwarded to Human Resources for approval. Once approved, the original agreement will be kept in the employee's personnel file. The employee and supervisor should maintain copies for their own records.

- C. The employee and supervisor must agree upon use of any ATPL-owned equipment to be used in the telecommuting arrangement.
- D. The Information Technology Department at the Central Library must be advised of the arrangements as they relate to use of ATPL or personal equipment.
- E. A Telecommuting Work Plan must be included as part of the Telecommuting Agreement. The Telecommuting Work Plan must include at a minimum the following:
 - 1. Specific description of the duties to be performed;
 - 2. Established workdays and work hours;
 - 3. Explanation as to how supervision will be provided; and
 - 4. Explanation as to how work products and outputs will be reviewed, monitored and measured.
- F. Human Resources must be notified in writing of any modification to or cancellation of any Telecommuting Agreement.

Adopted by the Aurora Town Public Library Board of Trustees on November 17, 2020. Amended November 18, 2025.