

Monday Morning Eye-Opener August 28, 2023

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER



FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

August 28, 2023

State Library Receives Important Grant

To Further Social Work in Iowa Libraries Project

State Library of Iowa was recently awarded a grant of \$246,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as part of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. The grant will

be used for our agency's efforts to support the psychosocial needs of Iowa library staff and patrons.



"This grant will have far reaching impact, both within Iowa and beyond. It will allow us to continue critical projects to support social work efforts for library patrons and the staff that serve them," said State Librarian Michael Scott. *"Libraries continue to be one of the first places Iowans turn to for assistance with community needs beyond library services."*

A multi-year project will implement recommendations from a needs assessment conducted by Dr. Beth Wahler and will culminate in the development of a toolkit to be made available to other states wishing to create similar programs. This grant project includes:

- Developing specialized training programs for library directors and staff to gain essential skills for serving patrons with psychosocial needs and for building successful collaborations with social service providers
- Offering free Mental Health First Aid training to library staff statewide
- Contracting with a licensed social worker to facilitate a mental health support group pilot program for library directors and staff
- Expanding professional development collection materials for librarians on mental health and related topics

About the Social Work in Iowa Libraries Program

The Social Work in Iowa Libraries program was launched by the State Library in 2022 to explore opportunities to help more libraries offer psychosocial resources to their patrons and support the unique challenges that library staff face. The pandemic further highlighted the important role libraries and librarians play in their community.

About the Laura Bush Librarian Grant Program

This program supports the training and professional development of library and archives professionals; develops faculty and information leaders; supports recruiting, educating, and retaining the next generation of library and archives professionals in order to develop a diverse library and archival workforce to meet the information needs of their communities.

[Read More About Social Work in Iowa Libraries](#)



"A Library Card Is Elemental"

Since 1987, **National Library Card Sign-Up Month** has been promoted in September to mark the beginning of the school year. That's the month when the American Library Association and U.S. libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs-up for their own library card.

Throughout the school year, public librarians and library staff assist parents by saving hundreds of dollars on educational resources and services for students. Library staff work to remind parents and youth that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning. Not to mention a very cost-effective back-to-school item!

The 2023 theme is *"A Library Card is Elemental."* Public and school libraries nationwide are urged to participate in **Library Card Sign-Up Month** and amplify the message that libraries are an imagination place. Find free toolkits from ALA, including posters, bookmarks, social media messages, public service announcements, and more. Here's a smattering of what's available on ALA's website

- Ready-to-air [audio public service announcements \(PSAs\)](#) for radio stations, available with the American Library Association ID or customizable versions
- Graphics in English and Spanish, including yard signs and window clings reading "Library Card Holders Live Here." ALA's digital graphics are free to use on your websites and social media accounts.
- A customizable Library Value Calculator

**Share your plans to promote Library Card Sign-Up Month
with colleagues on Library Talk!**

All About Library Card Sign-Up Month

The Boardroom Series This Fall

September Through November

The Boardroom comes back this fall with a 3-part series titled *Intersections*. Starting in September and continuing through November, *Intersections* explores 3 key areas where close cooperation between city governments and city libraries is essential. Here's the scoop on Part 1:



Intersections Part 1. Buildings. September 21. 6:00-7:00PM

The fall series will begin with a discussion of the library's physical facilities. Library buildings are city property, covered under the city's contents and liability insurance. Why then are so many library boards told they are responsible for building maintenance and even capital improvements? We'll cover best practices for working with city administration for improved day-to-day facilities management, as well as bigger building projects. We'll offer clarification of city responsibilities vs library responsibilities and we'll touch on who should have keys to the library.

About "Intersections"

"Intersections: Where City Government and City Libraries Meet" is a three-part webinar series designed for library boards. The sessions highlight best practices for city governments and libraries to meet in the middle comparing policy and practice. Join us this fall, beginning with a discussion of facilities and continuing with sessions on budgeting and personnel, all intended to help foster improved communication and cooperation with your partners in city government.

Attending these webinars enables library trustees to meet

Standard #8, required at a Tier I level:

"All members of the library board of trustees participate in a variety of board development training each year..."

[Click For Dates, Topics, and Registration](#)

“Collection Cultivation” Webinar Series
Our “Collection Cultivation” webinar series concludes **tomorrow August 29** with a panel discussion “Wedded to Weeding.”

[Collection Cultivation Schedule](#)

Check It Out! August 29. 9:00-10:00

Check it Out! is a monthly webinar series spotlighting the best new books for ages 0-18. Youth Services Consultant Janeé Jackson-Doering shares collection development tips, programming ideas, and new titles galore for kids and teens.

[Register in IALearn](#)

“Prepping For Accreditation” Tips

For those libraries in the next accreditation reporting cycle (with re-accreditation applications due in February 2024) the State Library has recordings available titled **“Prepping For Accreditation.”** Seven recordings, along with accompanying PowerPoint slides, break down the accreditation process with explanations of strategic planning requirements, board-related standards to meet, HR standards, and more.

These recordings have proven to be very helpful as library directors and boards look toward the next accreditation or standards reporting cycle—especially if your library is in that next cycle! Click below to find that out and to access these recordings.

[Accreditation and Standards Information](#)

Hard to believe after the blistering temps last week, but next weekend is the Labor Day Holiday. All State Library offices will be closed on Monday September 4th. Look for the next *Monday Morning Eye-Opener* on September 11.

Enjoy the Holiday Weekend!

LABOR DAY



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