

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener September 23, 2024

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

September 23, 2024



### ALA's Libraries Transform: Accessible Small and Rural Libraries Grants

The American Library Association recently announced a third round of grants for rural libraries in the U.S. These grants titled **ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities** opened on **September 11th** and remain open **until December 11th**. Grants will be awarded in a range from \$10,000-\$20,000; winners will be notified on March 3, 2025.

Eligible libraries must be both small and rural, meeting this definition from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) *"IMLS defines libraries serving small and rural communities as those located in an area that's more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area and with a population of 25,000 or less."* A great many Iowa libraries meet this definition ... read on! 😊

The purpose of these **Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grants** is to help improve library spaces and services designed for people with disabilities. The definition of "disability" is fairly broad and can be found in the grant guidelines linked below. Interested libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach; i.e. homebound seniors, children with autism, hearing-vision-mobility impaired residents.

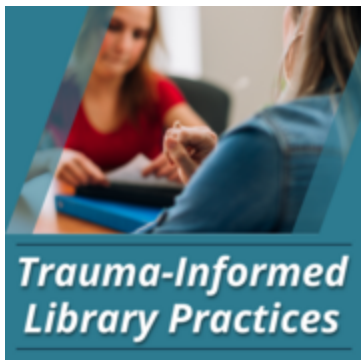
Library staff will also need to facilitate a community conversation with their targeted, primary audience in order to guide the hoped-for improvements. Grantees will then use the grant funds to make identified, needed improvements to library spaces and services.

Here's a tip: print a PDF copy of the grant application first to use it as a worksheet before completing the application online. Along with a collaboration idea: consider approaching this grant in partnership with neighboring libraries. More from the grant website on the "how-to" behind working with your colleagues: *"Multiple libraries can choose to submit a single application together if they feel they do not have the capacity to administer the grant individually...please note that for libraries that apply together, one library must be selected as the primary applicant with all others included as partners. The primary applicant will be responsible for managing all aspects of the grant and will act as the main contact for ALA."*

With a deadline of December 11, there's plenty of time to add this to an upcoming board meeting agenda or county meeting agenda. And what a cool thing to add to your library's strategic plan! An informational webinar is scheduled for Oct 10—learn lots more at the link below

**Libraries Transform: Accessible Small Rural Communities**

## Social Work Grant Update



### Reflective Practice Groups

Today a reminder about this opportunity: **Reflective Practice Groups** as part of the **Social Work in Iowa Grant Project**. From last week's *Eye-Opener*: *"First of all: this initiative will now be referred to as **Trauma-Informed Library Practices** to more accurately reflect the project's objectives. Secondly, we've made progress on key recommendations from Dr. Beth Wahler based on the statewide needs assessment she conducted in 2022. And thirdly, the State Library has hired Alyssa Caldbeck*

*(MSW & LISW degrees) to facilitate six different online groups starting in September and October using a technique called reflective practice..."*

These discussion groups will focus on creating a safe space to share and reflect on personal experiences at work, gain social support from others in similar roles, and continuously learn new perspectives and skills. Groups will meet via Zoom on a monthly basis, with two groups geared towards library administrators (one for urban/suburban and one for rural administrators) and four groups for non-administrative staff (two for urban/suburban and two for rural library staff)

These groups will be offered throughout the length of the grant until summer 2026. Continuing education credit will not be awarded for participating in the groups. Librarians interested in attending the groups should:

- Discuss with their supervisor the group's meeting schedule to ensure necessary coverage for their regular duties.
- Have a private, confidential space to participate in the group via Zoom, including a computer with microphone, audio and video capabilities. If the needed technology is a barrier, reach out to via email to [caldbeck@iowa.gov](mailto:caldbeck@iowa.gov)

Learn more about reflective practice and what you can expect in these groups, aided by an introductory video from Alyssa Caldbeck on the [State Library's Trauma Informed Library Practices webpage](#). Note the first discussion group starts on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, sign up now at the link below.

***This project was made possible in part by the  
Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant #RE-254904-OLS-23***

**Sign Up Now: Reflective Practice Groups**



Sponsored annually by the American Library Association—and promoted annually by libraries across the country—this is **Banned Books Week September 22-28**. This year's theme is "*Freed Between the Lines*."

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) tracks attempts to ban or restrict access to books across the United States and to inform the public about censorship efforts in school and public libraries. In 2023, OIF documented 1,269 attempts to censor books and other resources in U.S. libraries, the highest number of attempts since ALA began compiling this data 20 years ago.

4,240 unique book titles were targeted for censorship in 2023, a 65% increase compared to 2022 numbers. Note that a **challenge** is a formal effort to remove or restrict library materials, based upon the objections of an individual or groups. A **ban** is the actual removal of items from library collections.

**Banned Books Week** is noted for bringing together the national book community—from libraries to bookstores, publishers, journalists, teachers, Friends Groups, and patrons—all in the shared support of American's right to read books of their own choosing, even if some of those books contain unorthodox or unpopular ideas.

**BBW** is an ideal time to call attention to this fundamental freedom to read. And for Iowa libraries, especially, a time to remind people that the *Library Bill of Rights* had its beginnings right here Iowa. Forest Spaulding, Director of the Des Moines Public Library in the 1930's, is credited as the author of the *Library Bill of Rights*. Upon his death in 1965, Des Register editors wrote "[Forest Spaulding] went far beyond the role of librarian to help out in every cultural and intellectual phase of city activity. His interest ranged from purely city activities to foreign affairs. He made himself so much a part of the life of Des Moines

that the thought of him is still warm and pleasant.” Find a biographical sketch of Spaulding the [Iowa Heritage Digital Collection](#).

You have lots of artistic help to promote **Banned Books Week** at your library by visiting ALA’s website for downloadable flyers, posters, bookmarks, social media posts, and more. And lots of creative help with **BBW** displays by sharing your photos on LibraryTalk 😊

[More About Banned Books Week](#)

## Learning Circuit This Week



### Learning Circuit September 26th

A reminder to everyone who registered for the **State Library’s 2024 Learning Circuit**: we’re rolling this week **Thursday September 26** (9:00AM-3:30PM) at six locations across the state. This year’s program “*Trending Technology and the Future of Your Library*” looks at how new technologies are

already available and impacting libraries of all sizes.

The morning opens with a keynote address from librarian Philip Carter highlighting the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in library service. He’ll cover the basics of AI and what to watch for in this quickly-evolving field. In the afternoon, we’ll have a chance to try our hand at using AI to create material and do a fun workshop that will make us more AI-Savvy in the real world.

**Thanks to everyone registered for the 2024 Learning Circuit, we’ll see you there!**

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The State Library is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.





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