

Monday Morning Eye-Opener February 17, 2025

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

February 17, 2025

Mental Health First Aid Training

New Course Offering in 2025

This year, the State Library is introducing a new training program: **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**. This is an evidence-based, early-intervention course that teaches participants how to identify and respond to individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges.

This training is specifically intended for people working with the public and is designed to help teach appropriate strategies for recognizing and intervening in a crisis.



More About This Course

- Provides participants with the skills to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward appropriate professional help when necessary
- Emphasizes the importance of recovery and resiliency, based on the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can improve and utilize their own strengths to stay well
- Teaches participants a 5-step action plan to help someone developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis

Classes will be offered regularly both virtually and in-person over the coming year. As required by MHFA, each event will be capped at 15 participants, registration will close one week before the event to allow time for materials to be ordered. The sessions will be facilitated by a certified *Mental Health First Aid* instructor.

Currently Scheduled Events (worth 8 hours of CE Credit)

Space is limited, registration is required. Login to **Workday Learning** to learn more and to sign up.

Virtual Sessions Via Zoom

- Tuesday March 4. 8:30AM-3:00PM. (2 hours of prework, 6 hours of content, 30-minute lunch break)

- Friday March 28. 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM (2 hours of prework, 6 hours of content, 30-minute lunch break)

In-Person Training

- State Library Building. 1112 East Grand Ave, Des Moines. Room 310
- Friday April 4. 8:00AM-4:30PM. (7.5 hours of content, 1-hour lunch break)

Training sessions are open to anyone working in a public library in Iowa. No prior experience is necessary. Stay tuned to State Library communication channels as additional training dates will be announced for fall.

[Register in WorkDay Learning](#)



This program is part of the [Trauma-Informed Library Practices work](#), funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant: RE-254904-OLS-23

Reminder: AtMail Service Discontinuing



Deadline May 1st

Today, this necessary reminder because the deadline is looming: **as of May 1, 2025, the State Library will no longer provide email service to public libraries.** AtMail, the State Library's vendor for email service, is currently used by 299 public libraries, all of which will need to select a new email service provider by May 1st.

Last August, State Library management announced the end of our SILO AtMail service. And since then, State Library staff have been gathering resources to help public libraries work through this process, helping to answer questions about switching over to another email provider.

Several situations prompted this decision, among them frustration with ongoing technical issues, obviously affecting service satisfaction. In addition, last year brought about difficulties in handling FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests. Because state and local government emails are considered public records, providing email service to libraries puts the State Library in the time consuming and potentially sensitive position of being in the middle between the city and the email service provider. Legally, FOIA requests are best handled in their entirety by the city government.

And finally, the longevity of this service factored in. The State Library began offering email service to public libraries about 25 years ago when few libraries had staff expertise to establish it locally. Today, email is ubiquitous and can be likened to phone or Internet service, which the our agency does not provide for public libraries.

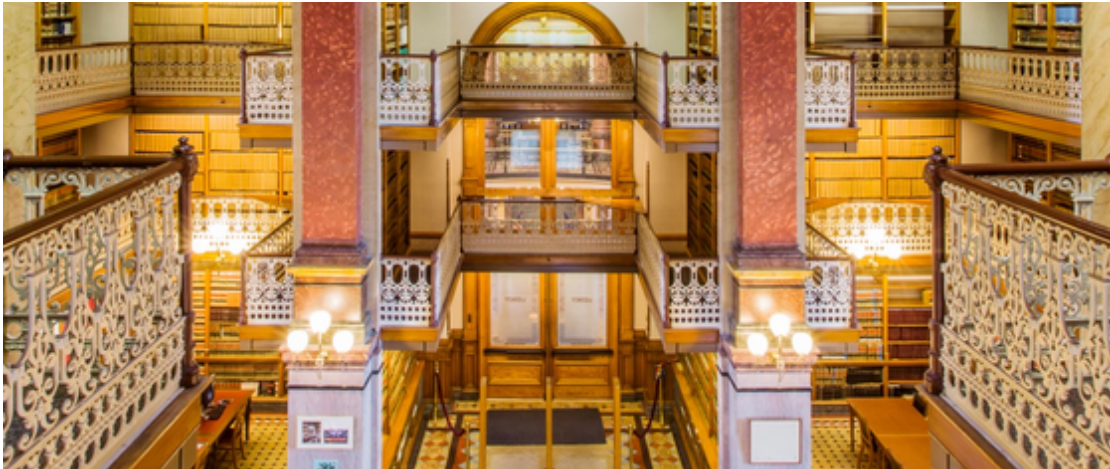
So if your library hasn't already made the switch to a new email provider, we have detailed explanations, FAQs, as well as a video clip on the webpage linked below. Moreover, your

[District LRT](#) is standing by to provide support through this process.

Please be mindful of the May 1st deadline, click below for much more,
and thank you for seeing to this soon!

Email Service Transitioning

State Library Launches New Website



State Library of Iowa.Gov

Have you seen it? It's really quite awesome! That being the [State Library's new website](#), launched last Tuesday on the official platform for all state agencies. Following a directive from Governor Reynolds regarding a state government realignment in 2023, the goal was for all state agencies to move to the official website platform. **The photo above is the State Law Library now showing on our main landing page.**

"This project has been in the works for some months now, and we are pleased to launch the new State Library website with some exciting enhancements for our users," said Interim State Librarian Brenda Hall. *"The new website still contains all of the important information that libraries and Iowans have come to expect from us. And it is now more apparent that we are part of state government."*

The State of Iowa contracted with a vendor to lead the process in updating and transitioning state agency websites to a consistent platform. The State Library follows about 60 other state agency websites that have already gone through the process, place us now on the official state government website platform for the first time.

The State Library's new website platform is built on the Drupal platform and is designed with accessibility and readability in mind. NOTE: this switch does not affect public libraries' PLOW websites, those will remain on the Concrete5 platform.

New Website Features Include

- Improved content for landing pages, locations, contacts, and "How Do I..." explanations for processes

- **Quick Links** to useful and popular content throughout the site
- More white space and larger fonts for accessibility
- Shorter paragraphs and sentences for readability
- Greater compatibility with mobile use, including **Tables of Contents** and “**Back to Top**” links on longer pages
- Improved navigation, showcasing more of the work the State Library does
- Prominent featured images that complement the text

Take some time to browse and bookmark the State Library’s new website today!

[State Library of Iowa.Gov](https://www.iowalibrary.gov)

This Week



February 18. All Iowa Reads 2025: Exploring the Shortlist. Online. 11:00AM-12:00PM

This hour-long webinar introduces the 2025 All Iowa Reads shortlists for Adults, Teens, & Kids. Through booktalks and read-a-likes. Plus ideas for spotlighting these titles and the All Iowa Reads finalists in

your library.

February 21. Friday Tech Focus. NotebookLM: Your New Digital Sidekick. Online. 9:30-10:00AM

Meet NotebookLM, maybe your newest (and most tireless) research assistant! Think of it as a supercharged notetaker, a friendly brainstorming buddy, and a master of all things organized. Whether you're chasing the elusive perfect program idea, drafting policies, or managing your research, NotebookLM can help.

Friday Tech Focus is a quarterly opportunity to learn about a new tech or web tool, and discuss how it might be used in a library setting. Perfect for the busy librarian! Spend 30 minutes learning about a new tool, then stay for informal discussion if you have time.

[Register in WorkDay Learning](#)

Editor: [Bonnie McKewon](#)



1112 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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.



Stay Connected with the [State Library of Iowa](#):



[Manage Subscriptions](#) [Help](#)



Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)