

LSTA Grants - Health Information Awareness and Access

Eligible Applicants: Public libraries, public library systems, health libraries. Applicants should consider joint projects, showing partnerships with other organizations. Preference will be given to proposals including multi-type library environments.

Purpose: The underlying goal is to expand access to quality health information resources available to the public by providing electronic tools and by training public librarians to direct people to the best health resources.

General Requirements:

- Proposed health information literacy projects must involve multiple organizations that promote health information literacy, e.g., health sciences libraries, schools of health education, National Library of Medicine.
- Proposals must address educational and training development for librarians who will share the best health resources with the public.
- Proposals could identify and address health information needs of special/underserved populations or the general public. See Healthy Wisconsin People 2010: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/implementation/pdf-files/summary.pdf>
- Proposals could involve a needs assessment or survey to determine health information needs and target populations.
- Proposals will include a public awareness component to the best health literacy materials.
- Proposals should include a method of sustainability for maintaining this effort.

Grant Funds May be Used to:

- Design and maintain Web pages and online health information resources for caregivers; design and publish other resources as determined by local health information needs.
- Plan and execute educational training opportunities in health information literacy awareness for librarians. (From <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/pld/pdf/guide10.pdf>)

South Central Library System –Health Information for Elderly and Caregivers \$6,000: As the population ages, more and more individuals will find themselves in the position of caring for an aging parent or other loved one. The problem is universal, and Wisconsin is no exception. The purpose of the grant was to enable the South Central Library System (SCLS) to provide training and information for member libraries to help them meet the health information needs of the elderly in their community and their families. We conducted an in-person “overview” workshop in two locations, followed by four webinars, each focusing on a specific aspect of the topic: Medication, Legal and Financial Issues, Local/Regional Resources, and “Your Library” (this last one focused on what individual libraries are doing or plan to do in terms of adding links to their web pages, offering public programs, etc.”

Waukesha County Federated Library System – Health Information Access \$8,000: The librarians of the Waukesha County Federated Library System (WCFLS) met with Waukesha Memorial Hospital medical library director to discuss ways to raise awareness about health care resources. The major concern expressed was that there are a lot of medical resources both in print and online, but how do patrons know they found credible resources? Project objectives include: 1) Conduct a needs assessment to determine health literacy and information needs; 2) Based on assessment results, develop an online health information resource; 3) Provide training about health resources; 4) Conduct public awareness campaign of developed resources.

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Winding Rivers Library System – Health-E Libraries in Western Wisconsin \$4,727: The Winding Rivers Library System (WRLS) project included a partnership with the two major health institutions in our area who had a grant in 2008 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine called “Great Rivers Partners for Health-E People,” a health literacy awareness and education project. Public libraries participated in the WRLS project by: attending training presented by the “Great Rivers Partners” staff on finding health resources and conducting health reference interviews; weeding and updating their print health information collections; adding links to their web sites so the public could access recommended health resources; and arranging and marketing a community program to promote the library’s real and virtual health information materials.

Northern Waters Library Service – Health Information Awareness in NWLS Public Libraries \$4,800:The NWLS project will provide librarians with a health information literacy workshop presented by the Director of the Jim Dan Hill Library at the UW, Superior. NWLS has partnered with the Jim Dan Hill Library to improve access to quality health information for NWLS member libraries by serving as a resource for health information throughout the project year. Bookmarks will be created showing links to health information websites. Links to the best health information websites will be added to the desktops of public computers for easy access by library patrons. Member librarians will weed and refresh their collections with project funds.

Links for more information:

- Keys to Engaging Older Adults at Your Library: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/olos/toolkits/oat.final.pdf>
- Delicious account where SCLS gathered all the websites shared in all the sessions: <http://delicious.com/eldercaring>
- Recordings and accompanying information for the 4 SCLS online webinars:
 - Legal & Financial Resources: <http://scls.typepad.com/programs/2009/07/legal-financial-resources-for-the-elderly-and-their-caregivers.html>
 - Drugs & Medication Resources: <http://scls.typepad.com/programs/2009/08/drugmedication-information-resources-for-the-elderly-and-their-caregivers.html>
 - Local & Regional Resources: <http://scls.typepad.com/programs/2009/09/finding-localregional-resources-for-the-elderly-and-their-caregivers.html>
 - Some Best Practices: <http://scls.typepad.com/programs/2009/10/your-library-and-health-information-for-the-elderly-and-their-caregivers.html>
- Conducting an effective consumer health reference interview: <http://tinyurl.com/yybooe4>
- Promoting consumer health resources in your community: <http://tinyurl.com/yybmsrl>
- Social networking and health information: an emerging consumer health resource? <http://tinyurl.com/y5ffzyo>

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