

Framing the Future: Advancing Strategic Planning in Small and Rural Libraries

The primary purpose of the grant is to help small and rural libraries in the six state region develop community based strategic plans that address the needs of their community. The hope is the strategic plans will also include at least one goal identifying ways to improve services to an underserved portion of the community.

The Wyoming State Library along with five other states is a part of a federal grant to encourage small and rural libraries to create plans that help improve service and establish the library as the powerful community center it can be for everyone in the community.

This grant has four phases:

- Phase 1 includes training about inclusion, raising awareness about the diversity present in every community (i.e., age, religion, race, ethnicity, income, etc.) and learning how to create a welcoming environment for everyone.
- Phase 2 of the grant includes training about the importance of strategic planning and is focused on reducing the barriers to planning.
- Phase 3 includes two intensive institutes designed to train facilitators in how to facilitate a community based plan. These facilitators will be paired with libraries that are interested in strategic planning. The idea is to create a no-cost/low-cost way for small and rural libraries to develop a plan.
- Phase 4 includes the actual facilitation and development of community based strategic plans.

Welcoming everyone and becoming a window to the world

Librarians and board members have the power to help build a kinder, safer community. The first phase is designed to increase our awareness of how to help build a welcoming community. If you are interested in taking part in the strategic planning piece of this grant, we ask that you take one of the following online classes.

We're All in This Together: Serving the Whole Community – Suzanne Reymer

Suzanne Reymer is a Statewide Consulting Librarian for the Montana State Library. She provides consulting and advisory services to public librarians and trustees as well as support for e-rate, bandwidth, public computing centers and digital literacy. Serving and welcoming everyone in the community has been a passion of Suzanne's for many years.

This session will introduce community engagement concepts by looking at census data. Participants will talk about equitable services – what that means and what it looks like. And,

how can we make sure that those who are currently in underserved groups have a voice and feel included? This session will also focus on the ways libraries can be windows to the world.

Options for those interested in We're All in This Together:

- Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 9am – 10am (Pacific); 10am – 11am (Mountain); 11am - noon (Central)
- Thursday, January 21, 2021 from noon – 1pm (Pacific); 1pm – 2pm (Mountain); 2pm – 3pm (Central)
- Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from noon – 1pm (Pacific); 1pm – 2pm (Mountain); 2pm – 3pm (Central)

Interested? How to register for a class

Not ready to commit to a strategic planning process? These courses are open to everyone. If you are interested in learning more about creating welcoming library services and being a window to the world, you are welcome to join us.

Please register by completing the [“We're All in This Together” form](#)

Registration closes Friday, January 8, 2021.

Questions?

Please contact Brian Greene at 307-777-6339 or brian.greene@wyo.gov

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