

I hope that you all are staying safe and warm today.

This week is our virtual Adult & Outreach Services meeting, and you can find the link to join below. You are welcome to come and share any successes or questions you may have with your fellow adult and outreach staff from across the state. If you cannot come but want to contribute a success or question, email me at hilary.writt@ky.gov, and I will share your question or success with the group. 😊

There are several grant opportunities and an upcoming webinar of interest, so be sure to scroll through the rest of this message to learn about these. Let me know if you have any questions about what I have shared, too.

December Adult & Outreach Services meeting

December 18, 2025; 2:00pm, ET / 1:00pm, CT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89652647845?pwd=UY2uwQftErspLMajEsedMycvYU78L9.1>

Meeting ID: 896 5264 7845

Passcode: 873023

Click on the link(s) below to go to the section of interest to you.

[Programming](#)

[Articles and News](#)

[Webinars and Training](#)

[Grants](#)

Programming and related resources

2025 I Partner with My Public Library Awards

[2025 I Partner with My Public Library Awards](#). On November 14, 2025, we held the Third Annual Awards Ceremony. [Watch the recording here](#).

Impacts of the partnership include:

- Directly addressing food insecurity by extending school snack access when school is out, so children keep getting nutritious food year-round.
- Removing stigma associated with needing food by operating openly and without any requirements.
- De-escalating hunger-related behaviours that in the past had led to issues and incidents in the library.

Learn more about this and all 10 of this year's awardees at the [I Partner with My Public Library webpage](#). Join us in this celebration!

About the I Partner with My Public Library Awards. These annual awards were started in 2023 after [a three-year national \(U.S.\) study](#) determined that the most impactful public library initiatives require strong community partnerships with a wide range of collaborators. We're thrilled to shine a light on library partnerships through this endeavor.

The goals of these annual awards are two-fold: (1) to celebrate the amazing work that is only possible when public libraries collaborate with community partners, and (2) to highlight opportunities for both public libraries and potential community partners to start and extend collaborations.

Complex community needs can only be addressed through community collaborations. It is our honor to award and celebrate the work these amazing community collaborators and their public library partners have done across all of North America.

Nominations in 2026 will open on June 1, 2026.

[Little Tea Library creates a café-like atmosphere](#) (OCLC's WebJunction, December 1)

[No-Bake Gingerbread House Workshop](#) (Programming Librarian, November 18)

[Silent Disco](#) (Programming Librarian, December 4)

Question posed to the ABOS (Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services list)

I am making an emergency kit for each of our Outreach/Library Vehicles and I am hoping for some ideas of items to keep in the kits. Our vehicles are fairly small, our largest being a Ram Pro-Master, and are used for various deliveries around our county. Most deliveries are within 30 to 40 minutes from our base office, but most of our towns are connected by lots of curving roads that wind through hilly woods.

We have a procedure for bad winter weather that postpones deliveries until roads are considered safe to travel by MODOT. We also thoroughly discuss the if the road conditions are truly safe enough to travel before anyone leaves their homes to get to the library. We leave it up to the staff member to decide if it is safe enough for them to come into the library. We also have a guidelines for tornados and bad weather outside winter weather.

I would greatly appreciate some ideas for what to keep in our vehicles so I and my team are prepared for various emergencies that may pop up on our travels and deliveries.

Thank you!

Sam Loftis

Outreach Coordinator

Responses—

- What a great question - and great thinking on your part. We have collapsible triangles or cones, in case of breakdown on a road, flares, a blanket (the metallic kind that folds down to almost nothing). I even have a bottle of water and a couple granola bars. Since you are so close you may not need more than that. If you were looking for other ideas - a small tire inflator (they are super small now) and a battery jumper. What other ideas do you have and has anyone suggested something cool?
- Having snacks and water in the kit is a fantastic idea. I also keep Liquid IV in my office in case I or my coworkers get dehydrated but I might keep some other electrolyte drink mixes in the vehicles too. We also keep laminated emergency contact information in the glove compartments with a list of PIC staff and Admin staff for our libraries.

Opportunity for youth

[The Center for Rural Development accepting applications for 2026 Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers Programs](#) (The Interior Journal, December 2)

The Center for Rural Development is accepting applications for the 2026 Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers summer youth leadership programs.

Students may apply online at www.centeryouthprograms.com and <https://www.centeryouthprograms.com/rogers-scholars-1> through Jan. 31, 2026.

Rogers Scholars (current 10th graders) provides valuable leadership skills and exclusive college scholarship opportunities for high school students to seize their potential as the region's next generation of leaders. Scholars spend one week on the campus of Lindsey Wilson University or Morehead State University.

Rogers Explorers (current 8th graders) focuses on leadership development, technology, teamwork, and career pathway exploration in STEM and other fields. Explorers spend three days and two nights on one of the following college campuses: Lindsey Wilson University, University of the Cumberlands, Eastern Kentucky University, Union Commonwealth University, University of Pikeville, or Morehead State University.

America250KY

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, libraries across the country are shining a spotlight on local stories, history, challenges and aspirations that reflect the authentic experiences of our diverse communities and prompt us to contemplate what it means to be part of these United States. As our founding motto affirms, ours is not a singular story but many that are woven together into a rich and complex fabric.

ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office is collecting information about libraries that are participating in local 250th anniversary activities, and we invite you to [share your stories here](#) if you are leading those efforts for your public, academic, school, or special library.

We will feature some of your stories-with permission-via ALA communications channels, including social media. We will post a summary of information shared via the form. In early January, we will share a resource for libraries that would like to create programming but have not yet made specific plans.

In the meantime, here is a wonderful [resource from the American Association of State and Local Historians](#), with appreciation to the librarian who recommended it to me.

Thank you.

Megan Cusick

ALA PPA Civic Engagement Fellow

[Commemorating 250 Years: 12 Library Programs to Explore Local History During the United States Semiquincentennial | Programming Librarian](#)

See these Kentucky Historical Society Resources, too.

America 250 Celebration Resources:

- <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/7978d4ce33.html>
- history.ky.gov/participate/america250ky

News & Articles

[Compassionate Crisis Intervention: Trauma-Informed De-Escalation for Libraries from Student and Faculty Perspectives](#) (NASW-NY Currents Newsletter)

[Decker, Storm, and KCTCS announce proposal to expand successful prison education program aimed at reducing recidivism](#) (The Sentinel-News, November 20) and [Louisiana prison dance reunites fathers and daughters | AP News](#) (Associated Press, November 29)

[Maine librarians are taking on more social service roles for their communities](#) (Bangor Daily News, December 3)

[The New York Times: The 10 Best Books of 2025](#) (The New York Times, December 2)

[A new 'solution' to student homelessness: A parking lot where students can sleep safely in their cars](#) (The Hechinger Report, December 9)

[RCPL offering social work help](#) (Laker Country 104.9, December 2)

[What Books Showed Up Across All The "Best Of 2025" Lists? Let's Dig In!](#) (Book Riot, December 11)

Webinars



kynectors: What Are They and How Can Library Staff Connect?

January 14, 2026; 10am, ET / 9am, CT

[Register for this webinar.](#)

Learn about the kynector program and the services that kynectors provide. Library staff are eligible to become kynectors, too, so join this webinar to learn more about that opportunity.

Presented by: Megan Snow, Public Assistance Program Specialist, Division of Family Support-
Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Grants

[Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults](#)

With more adults than ever turning to the internet for health information, libraries are stepping into a vital role as a trusted community resource for online health and wellness information. While the internet is a



critical resource, navigating it can be overwhelming for those without the necessary skills. Enhancing online health literacy is essential to reducing healthcare disparities and empowering adults to take an active role in managing their health.

To serve in this capacity for their communities, libraries need readily available tools and resources focused on effectively creating online health literacy programming for adults.

Through [*Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults*](#), ALA has created a toolkit for library workers with ready-made programming ideas and resources.

12 public libraries to be selected for pilot program

In collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, the ALA Public Programs Office is launching an exciting pilot program to implement this toolkit. Over a nine-month period, 12 public libraries will be selected to receive a resource package and hands-on support to strengthen their online health literacy offerings. Participating libraries will use the toolkit to host at least three adult health literacy programs in their communities and will play a key role in shaping the future of this initiative by sharing feedback with project evaluators.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Applications are open now through January 7, 2026.

[Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia](#)

Applications are now being accepted for the fifth round of the [Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia](#). Two \$2,500 grants will be awarded to libraries for planning new services/programs for their patrons living with dementia. Fill out the simple [application form](#) and submit it by **Jan. 20, 2026**. You don't need to be a member of the American Library Association or the RUSA subdivision to apply.

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant (Apply by February 2, 2026)

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. This grant aims to help ease budget challenges by annually awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Applications for the award will be accepted from December 1, 2025, to February 2, 2026: [Read the grant guidelines and apply online.](#)

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2025–2026 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications to support programming related to **strengthening community ties through libraries as third spaces**. As one of the few remaining "third spaces"-public spaces where individuals can gather outside their homes or workplaces-libraries are uniquely positioned to bring people together and strengthen communities.

Example proposals could include (but are not limited to): an intergenerational gardening program, a program series engaging adults in play-based programming, or a visual arts performance at the library in partnership with a local theater group. Proposed programs should include how it will bring people in your community together, how the program will foster connection amongst participants, and how the program can help folks share space with other people in the community.

Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant (Apply by February 2, 2026)

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant recognizes, promotes and supports innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. It will provide two grants of \$2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal or special library to expand its community engagement efforts.

Applications will be accepted between December 1, 2025, and February 2, 2026. View the full award guidelines and apply online at www.ala.org/LTCEG.

Libraries are invited to apply by designing and outlining activities for a library-led community engagement project. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a community engagement project with a specific theme. For the 2025–2026 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a community engagement project

that focuses on the concept of "**Libraries as a Lifeline: Building Belonging for All.**" Libraries should work collaboratively with community members and at least one partner organization to develop a project that addresses a local issue and builds upon community assets. Libraries should collaborate with community members and at least one partner organization to develop a project that addresses a local issue and builds upon community assets.

Sincerely,

Hilary