

Maine Reads Community Literacy Project Planning Grant Final Report

Please fill out the following final report and return within 60 days of the end of your grant or before filing a Maine Reads Community Literacy Project implementation grant, whichever comes sooner. The 2005 implementation grant deadline is April 15. This form is available on line and we would appreciate your return of this final report by copying it from our site www.mainereads.org and emailing it back to us at info@mainereads.org. If you do not have email, you may mail it to us at Maine Reads, 28 Winter Street, Portland, Maine 04012, but the electronic return is preferred. You will find that most of the questions listed below are the same as those we suggested you address at the Public Forum.

Library: Norway Memorial Library
Address: 258 Main Street
City, State and Zip: Norway, ME 04268
Librarian: Ann Siekman
Contact person: Ann Siekman
Phone: 743-5309
Email: asiekman@norway.lib.me.us
Website: www.norway.lib.me.us

Please respond to the following questions.

1) Names of members/groups on the Advisory Panel and affiliations and titles:

Jill Gabrielsen, Pediatrician
Kate Herlihy, Pediatrician
Dareth Law, Occupational Therapist
Shirley Nardi, Adult Education, Family Learning Program
Joan Parker, Adult Education, Family Learning Program
Mary Pietroski, Director Reilly Head Start Center
Connie Allen, Community Concepts
Karen Ellis, 2nd Grade Teacher
Anne Campbell, Norway Downtown Revitalization
Kathy Davis, Elementary District Librarian

2) Did you hold the following meetings and what were the approximate number of attendees:

___ Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 8
___ Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 9
Location: Norway Memorial Library
___ Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 8

3) What did you discover were the top 5 underserved populations in your community? (Please list them in descending order)

- a. kids whose reading skills decline over the summer
- b. parents who don't read with their children
- c. families who don't talk & who watch too much TV
- d. families who lack routines & organization
- e. the working poor

4) What literacy programs/activities are currently taking place in your community?

- a. library programs: story times, summer reading programs, events, craft & other activities
- b. adult education, family learning program
- c. One Book One Community
- d. New Books New Readers
- e. Preschool clubs in schools
- f. After school programs
- g. new day care center at tech school
- h. "Reading First" program
- i. "Right Start" program
- j. "Raising Readers" program
- k. Healthy Beginnings
- l. Head Start & Early Head Start
- m. day cares and preschools
- n. RIF program
- o. Even Start program
- p. extended Kindergarten
- q. family reading nights at schools

5) What is the most important contribution your organization makes to your community and how does it work towards the Vision, Goal and/or Objectives of the Maine Reads Community literacy Project?

Norway Memorial Library holds many story times throughout the week for preschool age children & their caregivers. We also have ongoing after school programs such as crafts, computer tutorials, writing workshops. We have a very active Summer Reading Program and a Summer Activity Program that includes a book discussion group for older elementary age children. We also have special events such as author visits, science programs, and special entertainers. We have an extensive collection of reading materials for all ages and we provide audio and video materials as well as public access computer stations. There are also many programs and activities for adults including monthly book discussion groups, author visits, local history programs, craft & cooking workshops.

6) What overlaps in services or groups served did you discover if any?

We found overlaps for school age children during the school year, but we thought that these were all around beneficial as reinforcements for children with needs.

7) Please describe potential community partners and projects to reach the under-served.

- a. partner with 21st century programs, sports teams, town rec programs that already have groups of children & parents and offer reading incentives to accompany these.
- b. partner with the doctors offices and supply volunteer readers for their waiting rooms.
- c. partner with the LOOK program and supply books and readers for time between summer classes.
- d. partner with already existing literacy initiatives, e.g. adult

education and head start, to teach adults how, what, and why to read with children
e. partner with teachers and schools to develop a district wide summer reading program for all ages

8) What literacy projects do you think are needed to fill the gaps in service in your community?

- a. emphasis on summer reading and development of district wide program
- b. outreach to parents who don't read with their children
- c. bigger emphasis on less TV and video games

9) What is your plan of action? How do you plan to address your communities literacy needs?

We have just submitted a Maine Reads Implementation grant proposal for a "Dragon Rider Reader" program to take reading and participatory activities to several locations in the towns of Norway and Paris. This is an effort to extend library and literacy services during summer vacation beyond the building walls to places where underserved people live and gather

10) Describe what you learned and how the project helped Maine Reads to reach its goal to strengthen families and support lifelong learning?

First of all I learned that the library can and should take a leadership role in the community, and that it was welcomed. I learned that this is an area that the library should be more active in and concerned about outside of our building walls. I learned that there were an astounding number of literacy efforts already being undertaken and that it is still not enough. I learned that none of these organizations has enough communication about what they all are doing and that they were grateful for the opportunity to talk with each other and want very much to continue meeting.

Other comments?

Thank you very much for asking libraries to take the initiative in developing these programs for our communities. I think we don't get recognized often enough for what we have to offer.

To help other literacy organizations gain a better understanding of literacy needs and projects in Maine, may we share your responses and post them on the Maine Reads website? Yes

Please feel free to provide a success story or information about how we may improve the Maine Reads Community Literacy project grants process. Thank you for your support!

I think it would have been useful and helpful to have had a workshop on how to develop these community projects and conduct the meetings and public forum. Perhaps to have spent the planning grant money on this rather than sending it out to individual communities. I am also curious what other communities are involved in this and what they are planning to implement.