

**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: Rockland Public Library
Address: 80 Union Street
City, State and Zip: Rockland, Maine 04841
Librarian(s): Jean Young, Children's Librarian
Contact person: Jean Young
Phone: (207) 594-0310 Email: jyoung@ci.rockland.me.us
Website if any: www.rocklandlibrary.org

Please respond to the following questions.

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

Beth A. Gifford Literacy Volunteers of Mid-Coast Maine
Lea Carver Friends of Rockland Public Library
Hope Hersom MacDougal School Librarian
KoKo Preston Parent Educator
Bill Leonard Rockland District High School Library Media Specialist
Kriste Ernest WBACH Classical Radio Affiliate
Ellen Spring Rockland District Middle School Librarian
Elaine Riedy Intern for CCAP Head Start
Mary Jo Smalley Home School Advocate
Jeanne Niswander MSAD #5 - Title I Director
Vanessa Smith Parent
Marilyn L. Hotch, Esq. MLH Dispute Resolution & Facilitation

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

Yes Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 14
Yes Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 17
Location Rockland Public Library Community Room
Yes Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 14

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

1. Teens

2. Adults
3. Senior Citizens; Bartlett Woods, Knox Center, Shore Village Nursing Home
4. Men and boys who only read "how to manuals"
5. "Basically, all segments are still underserved"

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

1. Literacy volunteers (adult and some family) in Knox County and small portions of Waldo and Lincoln County
2. "Take 15" in SAD 5. Periods of silence for reading.
3. "Title I" Applies below high school
4. Kiwanis. Donate books and read to children
5. "Bookit" Pizza Hut provides coupons for reading goals
6. Head nurse at Pen Bay OB/GYN hands out books to new mothers
7. Parents
8. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Born to Read program with Headstart
9. RSVP "Seeds of Change" program in prison helping dads read with their children through age 8
10. Library Book Club / Maine Student Book Award reading 4th through 8th grade
11. Great Books Discussion group
12. Senior College
13. Chickadee Award for picture books
14. Library Summer Reading Program
15. Library events, e.g., known authors meeting and speaking to parents and children
16. Training at the middle school to teach teachers about books for kids; what's available, how to select
17. Friends of Rockland Public Library "Books on Wheels" book delivery to shut ins

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?

We promote literacy within our community by providing quality reading materials, excellent reference resources, and informative public programs.

The Rockland Public Library's Mission is "To build community, preserve history, and nurture the life of the mind." We have 9551 registered borrowers with every MSAD #5 student possessing a library card. We presented 288 programs in 2004, which featured author visits, thought-provoking topics on current affairs, and community-based information.

The library collection consists of over 54,000 books and other materials, including unique local history and genealogical resources. 180,834 items are checked out annually and 150,474 people used the library during 2004. 5,000 items are added yearly, 2,600 reference questions are answered during the year, and we participate in on-line request and delivery service making statewide library collections available quickly and easily.

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

There is no overlap or redundancy with respect to adults. The youth programs serve similar age groups but do not constitute a true overlap because existing programs target different child groups. Additional exposure is useful.

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

The potential partners include Friends of the Rockland Public Library, Youthlinks, Title I teachers, nursing home directors, parents, service clubs, book store owners, small business owners, large business owners, Chamber of Commerce, local publishing companies, Maine writers and illustrators. Potential projects include teen to teen literacy initiatives, a community read, youth reading to senior citizens, a teen mentoring program with younger children, family reading night at the library, and a proposal to identify children not being read to and have them trained to read to others.

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

Teens were the group identified as underserved (the gap) and some literacy projects involving them include: a mentoring program where teens are united with teachers and in turn are encouraged to mentor younger children and senior citizens.

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

We decided on a "Read to Me" program where underachieving teens will be identified, united with mentors, and encouraged to reach out to others. The project can include a community read, collaboration with Youthlinks and Title I teachers with the library. The library will feature a once a month program and follow up with activities and opportunity to join a book club where we would gather and encourage each other to continue reading.

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

Each aspect of the process of identifying community literacy needs is valuable. We now have a greater understanding of what literacy programs are in place, which groups are addressed, which group is underserved, and finally, which possible program could be instituted to encourage greater literacy in our community.

Other comments?

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 X

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!