

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: York Public Library
Address: 15 Long Sands Rd
City, State and Zip: York, ME 03909
Librarian(s): Robert Waldman
Contact person: Elizabeth Reisz, York School Dept., 30 Organug Rd., York, ME 03909
Phone: 207-363-7887 Email: ereisz@yorkschoools.org
Website if any: www.york.lib.me.us

Please respond to the following questions.

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

Ruth Dealy, Principal, Village Elementary School
Jill Larson, Our School Nursery School Director
Maryann Minard, Curriculum Coordinator, York School Dept.
Elizabeth Reisz, Library Media Services Coordinator, York School Dept.
Jennifer Saunders, staff writer, York Weekly
Polly Stanwood, York Adult & Community Education Director
Margi Sudrabin, Literacy Specialist, Village Elementary School
Robert Waldman, York Public Library Director
Kathleen Whalin, Children's Librarian, York Public Library

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

Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 6

Meeting II Public Forum* # of attendees 30-40

Location York High School & York Public Library

Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 7

*Due to scheduling conflicts, the "Public Forum" consisted of input from several sources: 1) York Adult & Community Education Advisory Board meeting, 2) York Family Literacy Council (electronically), and 3) York Family Literacy Night

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

- Pre-school children & their parents
- Families in which at least one parent has not attained high school equivalency educational level or has limited English proficiency
- Elementary school-aged children during summer months
- Middle School students
- Foreign workers

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

- Public Library weekly pre-school programs & summer reading program
- Families Together Family Literacy Project (funding ends June 2005)
- York Adult & Community Education (A.B.E., E.S.O.L., G.E.D., etc.)
- Public Library programs for adults, e.g. "Let's Talk About It," readings by area authors, etc.
- Old York Historical Society lecture series and interactive programs

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?

The library's mission of "engaging the community in the joy of learning" supports the Vision and Goals of Maine Reads by providing all members of the community equal access to programs and services that evolve to meet identified needs and from partnerships developed with community groups. The library strives to establish its role as a center for educational, cultural and community activities.

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

A broad representation of organizations in York went through a similar process in 2002 when York Community & Adult Education was awarded a Barbara Bush Foundation planning grant. As a result there is greater awareness and coordination of services in the community.

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

Partnerships between public schools, private nursery and early elementary schools, the town recreation department the local historical society and the library would provide opportunities to reach identified underserved populations. Many ideas have been suggested for such programs, including book clubs, summer camps that would incorporate basic skills practice with fun activities such as music, theater and crafts.

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

Many wonderful programs happen during the school year, especially in the schools and in partnership with the school volunteers program and area nursing homes. The greatest need is for developing summer programs that would support literacy development in young children and school-aged children who have difficulty, and would help parents understand their role in supporting their children's education.

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

The York Family Literacy Council that oversaw implementation of Families Together, a family literacy project funded by the Barbara Bush Foundation, has served as a means of sharing information about literacy needs and programs. Through the Council many

ongoing relationships have developed among groups that will continue to address the identified literacy needs in the community. Applying for the Maine Reads grant is just one of the possible strategies that will be used. Gaining greater local funding support for the public library so that it can be open to the public more days is a priority.

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

The Maine Reads project raises awareness in local communities of the important role libraries play in supporting literacy development and fostering lifelong learning. It also encourages partnerships between community groups that share similar visions for their communities and for quality of life in their communities. From the family literacy work we have done we are aware that literacy development begins with the family and we are committed to providing opportunities to support parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher, the home as the child's first school, and reading as the child's first subject.

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 No

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!