

## **Public Library Services Grant Program**

### **Sample Program Ideas**

These include both general ideas and some specific ones from your fellow librarians.

#### **Book Bike - Literacy Program**

Portage Lake District Library's Book Bike

In 2018, the Portage Lake District Library (PLDL) received a \$2,000 LSTA Public Library Services Grant to help launch a new outreach program for the library. The funds were used to cover half the cost of a Book Bike for the library, as well as books to be given away at Book Bike outreach events.

A Book Bike is similar to a book mobile, but is much smaller and pedal powered. It can be used to provide outreach services at offsite events, such as farmer's markets, schools, or other community events. The Book Bike purchased by PLDL was made by Haley Tricycles in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It can store about 100 books, and folds open to display the titles, library event posters, brochures and more.

The books purchased for this program were themed to different outreach events library staff planned to attend with the book bike. Books about agriculture and cooking were purchased for Farmer's Market events. Bestselling new fiction was purchased for 'Beach Read' days, in which the Book Bike set-up at a local beach. All of the books were purchased through Ingram, the library's primary book vendor.

Books to be given away at events also included bibliographies themed to the event. Recommended books about cooking and agriculture in the PLDL collection were included on the bibliography at Farmer's Market events, for example. When patrons visited the book bike who did not have a library card, they received a registration card as a book mark in their free book.

#### **Multisensory Skills Kit for People with Disabilities – Children or Teens Program**

Bloomfield Township Public Library's Multisensory Skills Kit

This project is designed for people with disabilities, who learn best by engaging multiple senses with tactile, audio, visual and other sensory experiences. People with autism, cognitive impairments, intellectual disabilities, specific learning difficulties and English Language Learners (ELL) can have difficulty learning concepts and life skills via written and auditory instruction. Different learners can really benefit from these universal, hands-on assistive learning tools.

People can check out an all-in-one backpack kit with books, toys/games, tactile manipulatives, and other mixed media to support multisensory learners. Topics can include: basic concepts (alphabet, colors), social skills, daily living skills, community, safety, music, spatial relationships, time and more.

Supply list for "Cause & Effect" kit:

- Backpack
- Laminated contents label/tag

- 4 – 6 books (The Day Jimmy’s Boa Ate the Wash by Trinka Noble; If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff; Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst; The Napping House by Audrey Wood) – paperback is best
- Card set: Cause and Effect
- Card Set: ColorCards Cause & Effect
- Toy: Caterpillar Gear Board
- Game: Cause & Effect Alpine Adventure Game
- Toy: Smart Pal Frog (with optional capability switch)
- Toy: Mini Wiggly Giggly ball

Some non-print vendor resources can include: Janway (backpacks), Learning Resources, Lakeshore Learning, Super Duper Publications, Different Roads to Learning, Fun and Function, Kaplan, School Specialty, and Enabling Devices.

#### Tips and Lessons Learned

- If these are out on the public shelves and not in a closed-stack area, use backpacks with two zippers so you can secure them with zip ties while they are on the shelves. Circulation staff can cut them once they are checked out.
- Have volunteers or clerical staff check for missing contents upon return of kits.
- Create 2 picture guides with photos and description of contents to be kept on the shelves with the kits for patrons to see what is in each kit and another at the reference desk for staff to use.
- Form a focus group and/or get topic and material suggestions from local special education professionals and therapists.

### **Audio Book Club - Literacy Program**

This topic area is for the broad idea of literacy programs for all ages. Appropriate purchases may include early literacy stations, financial literacy curriculum, ESL materials and curriculum, digital literacy class supplies and curriculum, etc.

Program Idea: Audio Book Club

An audio book club is a way to reach patrons with print reading disabilities.

Supply List for Audio Book Club

- Audio books
- Promotional posters
- Earbuds or headphones
- MP3 player or Playaway

\* Note that patrons with reading disabilities may be eligible for services from the Braille and Talking Book Library – [www.michigan.gov/btbl](http://www.michigan.gov/btbl).

## **Coding Club - Technology Program**

This topic area is for programs for all ages that improve community access to technology. Appropriate purchases may include tablets, 3-D printers, assistive technology for disabled patrons, etc.

Program Idea: Coding Club

A coding club for tweens and teens that meets on schedule. The program teaches basic coding skills for specific projects – video game, robotic device, 3-D modeling, etc. After learning the code and writing their own program, the participants then can test their code with the appropriate hardware.

Supply List for Coding Club:

- Notebook or tablet computers
- Ozobot starter kits
- Arduino coding kits
- 3-D printer with supplies
- Snap Circuits
- Raspberry Pi

## **Nature Backpacks - Children or Teens Program**

This topic area is for library related children's and teen programs. Appropriate purchases may include materials necessary to do STEM activities, cultural enrichment program supplies, story time materials, etc.

Program Idea: Nature Backpacks

Families check out backpacks with nature walk supplies and topical books. The program can include several backpacks on various topics appropriate for the local area or local parks. The backpack can include books, posters, identification sheets, sample items based on the topic, along with activity sheets, coloring sheets, and an evaluation sheet. Topics can include insects, birding, animal tracks, stargazing, etc.

Supply List for Insect Backpack:

- Plastic backpacks
- Laminated identification sheets (butterfly, spiders, etc.)
- Insect catching net
- Plastic insect viewing box
- Books about insects
- Coloring sheets of insects