

**Upper Hudson Library System
Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council
2005 Outreach Mini-grant Recommendations
March 9, 2005**

The UHLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council met on March 9, 2004, with 8 of 10 members present, reviewed all of the 2005 Outreach Mini-grant applications, and made recommendations regarding the funding of these grants. Ten applications, totaling **\$10,880** were reviewed. There is available funding of **\$10,000** for this grant program.

After the grants were reviewed, the Council recommended funding nine of the ten projects at a total of **\$ 8835**. The grants are listed in alphabetical order. They are not ranked because the final funding recommendation is less than the amount available. Two libraries are recommended for funding at a lower amount than they requested, and one did not receive recommendation for funding.

General recommendation: The Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council should be notified when outreach programming is scheduled.

Albany Public Library: To establish 3 music/audio book listening stations in the children's area at the Main, Pine Hills and Howe locations. The goal is to create audio appreciation that can be utilized by parents/caregivers and their children to enhance early childhood literacy skills such as listening, music, movement and rhythm. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1245**.

Bethlehem Public Library: To bring professional library services (books, librarian-led book discussions, reference/reader's advisory services) to nursing home and assisted living residents who cannot come into the library. Requested funds to purchase 50 regular and large print books to house in the Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center. The Council hopes that this program could be a model in other communities. The Advisory Council would also like to see audio books added in the future. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1000**.

Cohoes Public Library: To provide basic one-on-one computer instruction to 15 elderly people and to make available a core collection of computer-related instructional materials (books, DVDs, Videos and CDs). Requested \$400 for the instructional materials and \$50 for marketing the class to senior centers. The council liked this idea very much but questioned the relationship between the materials and the instruction. Recommendation: full funding at **\$450**.

William K. Sanford Library: To increase service to the young adults in the Town of Colonie and to increase awareness of the service to teens by creating a permanent art gallery for teens within the library. Requested funds for display

cases, a special art book collection for the Teen Room, and a graphic art workshop. Partnering with Ms. Anne Manzella, Supervisor of Art Department, Shaker High School. The Council liked the concept but had some recommendations. Students should be involved in a more meaningful way, such as being part of the jury to select the artwork, or being the ones to create the brochure. It would also be nice to see this space offered to more students rather than a few selected by the art teacher. Suggest involving South Colonie School District and local parochial schools. The committee would also like to be invited to the opening. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1137**.

Guilderland Public Library: To conduct three workshops covering job search strategies, writing resumes and writing cover letters. Requested \$750 to pay for consultant from the Women's Employment and Resource Center. The Council believes that the need was not articulated and would have liked to have seen how many people they intend to reach, what the unemployment / underemployment figures are for the service area, and what outcome they expected. There were also concerns about how to reach the unemployed, as the marketing component of the grant focused on getting flyers out to the local Chamber of Commerce, other UHLS libraries via the courier service, and on the library website. Council believed this would not reach the unemployed and they would like to see attempts to put flyers in the local unemployment office. Recommendation: **not funded**.

Cheney Library: To promote reading readiness by creating 15 "theme" backpacks with age-appropriate books for 3 – 4 year olds. Will partner with Morning Star Daycare to promote the program and to seek advice about reading materials. Council liked the idea but was concerned about the outreach plan. Since their grant last year reached a very small number of children, the Council would like to see HOOFF contact Mary Fellows at UHLS to learn how to more effectively reach the children in the community. Also would like to cut to number of backpacks down to 7, in order to see how well they are used. Recommendation: reduce funding from **\$1395 to \$700**.

Petersburgh Public Library: To encourage school-aged children to use the library more and to strengthen their reading skills. The Salem Elementary School librarian will hold three monthly programs. Each student who participates will have the opportunity to sign up for the summer reading program and receive a backpack and paperback book. The Council recommends that the Library actively market this program to the parents as well as the children, for example at the PTO meeting. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1143**.

RCS Community Library: To help reluctant /learning disabled readers of upper-elementary and middle school age discover chapter books. Purchase 30 chapter books in audio/ paperback read-along format and promote their availability through school and public channels. Council suggests that the library may want to partner with STARS (Seniors Teaching And Reading to Students). There was

a concern about how the audio books would be promoted, because the timeline indicated promotion would be in June-August when school is no longer in session. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1210**

Sand Lake Town Library: To establish an Employment Resource Center to assist and enable approximately 200 unemployed and underemployed adults in finding jobs. Purchase materials related to resume writing, job searching, interviewing career transition, and civil service manuals. Offer two classes on re-entering the job market and resume writing. Create job information links on the library's web page. Partner with Rensselaer County Even Start program and market the classes/resources in local newspapers, the local food pantry, and the local thrift store. The Council believed this grant was well thought out with clear outcomes. Recommendation: full funding at **\$1200**.

Troy Public Library: To provide adult library services in the form of fiction and non-fiction books to the African American Community. The Council was concerned that there was no community partner, no indication of the need for such materials (what is the African American population in the Troy service area?), no indication of how books would be chosen, and no indication that the African American Community would be involved in this project in any way. Recommendation: reduce funding from **\$1250 to \$750**.