

**Recommendations from the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council  
January 9, 2007**

The Coordinated Outreach Services Council met to review 13 mini-grant applications totaling \$14,522.76. The UHLS Coordinated Outreach budget for programs is set at \$10,500. The Council made the following recommendations:

**Albany Public Library** will bring together noted local literary experts, social commentators, artists, and storytellers to present accessible presentations for general audiences on Zora Neale Hurston's classic of the Harlem Renaissance, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. These programs will be part of UHLS' and NEA's Big Read initiative. APL will host these events in non-traditional spaces, including businesses along Albany's urban retail corridor, beauty/barber shops, restaurants, churches, etc.

*The Council thought that the \$500 for presenters (\$100 x 5 presenters) was vague. Also thought that the money earmarked for stickers was excessive. Requested \$1,250. Recommend reduced funding at \$650.*

**Altamont Free Library** will provide greater opportunity for the developmentally disabled residents of local group homes to use the library by providing books, audios and videos to them. A librarian will lead 8 book discussions for these adults, and a staff member from the Center for the Disabled will actively participate in each book discussion.

*The Council liked the program, but hopes the Library communicates with the Center for the Disabled that this could also be done elsewhere. That is, this program could be used as a model). Requested \$1,103. Recommend full funding.*

**Brunswick Community Library** will continue a toddler lap-sit story hour which will include fingerplays, rhymes, songs, and movement. The grant funds will be used to pay the presenter and purchase supplies.

*The Council would have liked to see how the library was going to market this program, and wished there had been collaboration with another agency, but felt it was good use of the money. Requested \$575. Recommend full funding.*

**William K. Sanford Library** will train elders to tell stories. A professional storyteller will hold eight weekly training sessions for seniors to introduce storytelling, familiarize them with folktales, help them select a story or folktale to tell and coach the seniors on performing. Participants will then perform at schools and at the Riverway Storytelling Festival.

*The Council liked the intergenerational theme for this grant, but was disappointed that the grant was not more developed. They would have liked to see a further expansion of last year's grant...perhaps taking the seniors from last year and having them teach storytelling. Also thought the artist's fee was excessive. The Council suggested that this*

*would be appropriate for Congregate Service Initiative (CSI) grants sponsored by the Albany County Department of Aging. Requested \$1,250. Funding denied.*

**East Greenbush Community Library** will offer librarian-led book discussions to the residents of four area adult residence facilities. Funds received will purchase “book discussion kits” which will include at least one audio book, 4 large print books, a regular print book and the associated movie. These kits will be rotated among the facilities.

*The Council liked this because the library is building on what they learned last year. Requested \$1,200. Recommend full funding.*

**Guilderland Public Library** will present a series of three programs on the subject of the Autism Spectrum, to serve as both an introduction to participants (anticipated minimum of 15) of the urgent need for greater understanding of this disorder, and to provide resources for information and support to those who may be struggling to meet the significant emotional and educational challenges of providing for a family member with autism.

*The Council thought that the target audience was good, but thought that the presenter should do the program for free, since she will be getting free advertising for her services. Also were uncomfortable because it may look like the library endorses her services. The Center for the Disabled would probably have someone who would present without charge. Requested \$1,050. Recommend reduced funding at \$750.*

**Poestenkill Library** will visit the Seniors at their weekly meeting and bring them materials from the library’s collection – books (regular & large print), DVDs, VHS, music CDs, audio books. The library will also provide a library card to the Senior Center to facilitate the borrowing of books. The relationship between the library and senior center should encourage greater use of the library by seniors.

*It would have been nicer to see more of a focus on the seniors who cannot go to the senior center, or those who are home throughout the dreary winter months. The Council thought that the monies for a DVD player would not be useful since the 10” screen would be too small for many seniors to enjoy. Requested \$1,229. Recommend reduced funding at \$870.*

**Petersburgh Public Library** will offer story hour programs at a local day care center, to reach children that do not come into the library. They will use funds to purchase books, puppets, a laminator and supplies.

*The Council liked the idea of finding a solution to the problem that young kids are not coming into the library. However, they would have liked to see more of a link to the library; perhaps a component for the parents such as handing out library card applications during story hour or sending a flyer about the library home with kids. Consensus was that the library could go through a jobber to get books at a better price. Requested \$1,250. Recommend reduced funding at \$1,000.*

**Rensselaer Public Library** will help patrons learn the skills needed to find a job by providing books on job searching, resume writing and interviewing. They will create a job-searching area in our library, with newspapers, lists of job-search websites, and brochures provided by the Rensselaer County Department of Employment and Training. They will also offer 3 classes on job searching techniques.

*Thought that the program was great. Liked the partnership with Rensselaer County One-Stop Center. Requested \$875. Recommend full funding.*

**Rensselaerville Library** will provide 25 copies of five book titles in order to expand on a program started with an ALA grant. These books can be used throughout the year at the Cass Residential Center, a facility that houses up to 22 male youth offenders between the ages of 14 and 17. This will enable the residents of Cass to have book discussions with Linda Miller, a retired English and creative writing teacher.

*The Council liked this program a great deal. Requested \$1,190. Recommend full funding.*

**Sand Lake Town Library** will expand its services to seniors by having daytime movies, expanding the Large Print collection and non-fiction titles of interest to aged adults, and providing reference and readers' advisory and highlighting services to this group through monthly coffee hours at the Library, and promoting the delivery of library materials to the homebound.

*The Council did not see how this was any different than traditional library services. Requested \$1,100. Funding denied.*

**Troy Public Library** will increase the size of the Main Library's collection of Spanish Language books and promote the use of these materials to Hispanic Outreach Services.

*Council liked how the library used statistics to support the need. Also like the partnership with Hispanic Outreach Services. Requested \$1,250. Recommend reduced funding at \$1,150.*

**Watervliet Public Library** will create a "rotating collection" of Large Print Books and Audio Books on Tape/Cassettes to Senior Citizens living in three Watervliet Senior Housing Complexes.

*Council thought that the concept of rotating collections would give "the most bang for the buck". Requested \$1,200. Recommend full funding.*