

**Recommendations from the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council
February 4, 2007**

The Coordinated Outreach Services Council met to review 18 mini-grant applications totaling \$41,272.95. The UHLS Coordinated Outreach budget for these grants is \$21,479. There is an additional \$15,000 available from New York State Supplemental Aid to UHLS. Total funds available are \$36,479. The Council made the following recommendations:

Albany Public Library will partner with YES (Youth Empowerment Services) to employ minority urban teens in its branches and in the main library. Teens will go through a training session to learn job skills (such as customer service), they will then be employed in the library a few hours a week, and act as ambassadors for other teens.

The Council thought that the program was worthwhile, but would have like to see the teen ambassadors come from teens that don't use the library. Requested \$3,000. Recommend full funding.

Altamont Free Library will host a book/movie series for seniors. This group is unable to get to the library because of the 2 flights of stairs. The librarian will work with Altamont senior citizens to host a book and a movie. The library also intended to target the unserved residents of Knox by mass mailing an announcement of library activities. Requested funds for staff, equipment, books, and mailings.

The Council liked the program, but had several concerns. There is no partner for Knox, and the idea of a mass mailing with library programs may not be the most effective way to market the library services. The second concern was whether or not the library can legally show films in the senior center with movie licensing for the library. (It is our understanding that movie licensing cannot be transferred). Amount requested: \$2,526. Recommend reduced funding for \$2,026

Berne Public Library will work with students and their parents to improve reading skills. The librarian will go into the school, host book discussions at lunch with children who have been identified as reading below grade level, then invite the children and their parents into the library for a scavenger hunt, film, or other activity.

The group unanimously agreed that this was the perfect outreach program. Amount requested: \$676. Recommend full funding.

Bethlehem Public Library will assist ESL students in grade K-5 to improve reading and homework skills. The library requested funds for bilingual dictionaries, children's books, children's audiobooks, and materials for their parents on citizenship, American culture, and raising a bilingual family.

The group liked this program a great deal, and thought that it was a good use of staff

time. The Council questioned whether or not parents would actually come to a weekly conversation club due to potential conflicts with jobs or lack of transportation. Requested \$2,950. Recommend full funding.

Brunswick Community Library will sponsor an oral history program with Brunswick area seniors. Historians will interview and record seniors individually. The library will publish their interviews in booklet format. The library requested money for personnel, cassette tapes and printing.

The council liked this program a great deal and is hoping that the resulting materials/video can be put on the Brunswick Community Library website. Requested \$1,410. Recommend full funding.

Castleton Public Library will expand their services to the Castle Hill senior housing complex. The library wants to purchase a laptop for their bookmobile to facilitate checkouts, offer "Playaway" books for checkout, and offer the seniors four trips to take advantage of diverse activities in the area.

The council can certainly see the need for the laptop and the "Playaways" (if the buttons are marked clearly for seniors to see). The proposed trips, however, have nothing to do with library funds. Requested \$3,000. Recommend reduced funding for \$2,600.

Cohoes Public Library will be offer computer classes in the senior center. The library request funds for a trainer, a laptop, an LCD projector with screen, and materials.

The Council liked this proposal but would have liked to see an inter-generational component. Could the seniors e-mail their grandchild? Could the High School get involved and have teens help out in the classes? Requested \$2,325. Recommend full funding.

William K. Sanford Town Library will create a Job Resource Center for use by all young adults in the Town of Colonie. The library will reach out to at-risk youth in the community who may need a personal approach to gaining job skills. The library will partner with Hope House, South Colonie Schools, and Town of Colonie Youth Bureau.

The council thought the grant was well thought out. No additional recommendations. Amount requested \$3,000. Recommend full funding.

East Greenbush Community Library will use UHLS funds to leverage other grant monies to host a multi-faceted project utilizing photography, storytelling, lectures, and collection development centered on Alzheimers and other dementia-related diseases.

The Council liked this because the library is building on what they learned last year. Requested \$3,000. Recommend full funding.

Guilderland Public Library will partner with LVA (Literacy Volunteers of America) to

provide a laptop with English language software that patrons can check out. A second copy of the software will reside on a dedicated computer in the library. Funds requested for laptop, software, offset LVA cost to produce a newsletter.

The Council thought this proposal had merit, but questioned the amount of money for a laptop, and why the library would help pay for the LVA newsletter. Requested \$3,000. Recommend partial funding at \$1,870.

Cheney Library (Hoosick Falls) will respond to a demand in the community to provide resources on the autism spectrum disorders. The library intends to hold workshops and purchase materials on autism spectrum disorders.

The Council questioned the need for two speakers in such a small community. They also questioned the need for purchasing 50 items, since other materials on autism are available throughout the system. Requested \$1,850. Recommend reduced funding at \$925.

Nassau Public Library intends to hold workshops and classes for the unemployed/underemployed in the community. Funds would be used to pay presenters and purchase workbooks.

The group felt that this was not well thought out. It is unrealistic to expect that 20 unemployed people will attend a total of 6 workshops. It is hoped that each of these workshops can be a “stand alone” class so that even if someone only attends one or two, he/she would get something worthwhile out of it. Requested \$2,200. Recommend reduced funding at \$1,400.

RCS Community Library will train elders to tell stories. A professional storyteller will hold ten 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 the Riverway Storytelling Festival.

The Council liked this but hoped that the Library would take storytelling to the school since STARS, the partner agency, is already in the schools. Requested \$2,382. Recommend full funding.

Rensselaer Public Library will improve literacy in struggling students, mentally disabled adults and ESL students. Will partner with Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County.

Thought that the library had good intentions, but from what the Council could determine, it appeared that all of the funds would go to literacy volunteers. The group thought that Literacy Volunteers was a free service, and we were confused by giving them a “stipend.” Requested: \$1,850. Funding denied.

Rensselaerville Library will provide services to seniors who attend the Rensselaerville Senior Citizen's Club. The library will offer library cards, lending, and reader's advisory. Funds will help purchase a book truck, a hand truck, totes, and large print books.

The Council liked this program a great deal. Requested \$1,260. Recommend full funding.

Troy Public Library will improve services to young adults and teens by expanding their graphic novel collection and having students create their own graphic novels. The library requests funds for collection development and for an art teacher to come in and teach cartooning.

The Council liked this proposal, but there was no partner and no mention of how the students would be recruited. The council suggests partnering with a local school to target kids that don't normally come into the library. Requested \$2,450. Recommend full funding.

Voorheesville Public Library will enhance their services to the visually impaired community. The library requested funds for large print books, a bookshelf, magnifying readers, and for hiring a bus to take seniors to a concert at the library.

The group liked the idea of serving this population, but they questioned the number of large print books requested since UHLS has a large and up-to-date collection of large print titles that are available to the libraries. Also, the "Big Yellow Bus" trip did not seem to fit with the rest of the grant proposal. Requested \$2,996. Recommend reduced funding at \$2,345.

Watervliet Public Library will purchase a Nintendo Wii gaming system and associated peripherals to encourage seniors to use the library while increasing their mobility and range-of-motion. The library intends to hold tournaments for seniors and have them broadcast on WVLT (the local access cable channel). The gaming system can also be used to encourage teens to come into the library.

The Council liked this idea a great deal and thought it was a creative way to get seniors and teens into the library. It is hoped that this program can be used as a model for other libraries in the system. Requested \$2,315. Recommend full funding.

Total funding recommended: \$35,934