

Expanding the Entrepreneurial Role of Rural Libraries Application for Pilot Training Program

For selected rural librarians in the Alliance Library System service area, the pilot project will:

- Provide pilot training programs to build their capacity to respond more effectively to queries about entrepreneurship and community development;
- Promote rural libraries as crucial access points for information needed to support effective public and private development decisions;
- Enhance rural libraries' roles as local public space to hold meetings, educational training, and other activities related to community development and building a culture of entrepreneurship;
- Provide computers with two-way video capabilities to enhance the libraries' internet capacity for the librarians and their patrons. Libraries receiving the computers will agree to comply with CIPA requirements for internet filtering software.

The next phase of our grant is to provide 3 half-day training programs directed to 10-15 libraries. These training programs are intended to build the library's role in helping to lead community and economic development. The programs will be presented by community and economic development specialists, staff familiar with successful library engagement in community development and others. The intent is to train participants to work in their communities, seek external help, and work effectively in what for many librarians may be new roles.

Interested libraries need to submit a completed questionnaire and evidence of community support to participate in the next phase of our LSTA grant program, "**Expanding the Entrepreneurial Role of Rural Libraries.**" Examples of evidence include but are not limited to: letters of support from library board members, economic development officers, and the Chamber of Commerce. Please mail/fax your library's application and letters of support to:

Phyllis C. Self, Ph.D.
Dean, University Libraries
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455
309/298-2762
Fax 309/298-2791

Questionnaire

1. How can your library help your residents improve their work and entrepreneurial skills?

Check all that you currently offer:

- Literacy program that helps people learn to read and write;
- English as a Second Language tutoring or classes;
- Computer classes that teach people (check all that apply)
 - Mouse skills
 - How to use email;
 - How to use Word;
 - How to use Excel;
 - How to write a resume ;
 - How to apply for a job online;
 - How to search the Internet, especially small business and community development sites;
 - How to evaluate the information found on the Internet (Information Literacy);
 - Other, please specify _____

2. Describe your current technology resources, i.e.

a. Number and age of computers available for the public _____

b. Network connectivity, e.g. DSL, Dial-up, Cable

c. Wireless availability _____

d. Laptops for checkout in the library _____

e. Computer lab _____

f. Web page support

- Library staff maintains website
- Outsourced to an internet service provider
- Library volunteer maintains website
- Outsourced to an individual in the community
- Other, please specify _____

g. Other, please specify _____

3. Do you have a meeting room that could be used for meetings, classes, or tutoring? _____ Yes _____ No

4. If yes to # 3 answer the following

a. How many people will it hold? _____

b. About how many hours per week is the room used currently? _____

c. Does the room have (check all that apply).

- Enough tables so the room can be set up as a classroom;
- Computer;
- Internet capability;
- LCD projector;
- Screen;
- Smart Board;
- Microphone;
- Computer lab (how many computers? ____);
- Printer;
- Other audio-visual equipment (please explain). _____
- Other, please specify _____

5. What databases do you offer beyond those supplied through FirstSearch?

6. Does your staff teach patrons how to use the databases? ___Yes ___No

7. Please describe if you offer classes and/or teach users one-on-one to use databases? _____

8. What services would you **like to add** if you had the money, time, and staff? Check all that apply.

- Mouse skills
- How to use email;
- How to use Word;
- How to use Excel;
- How to write a resume ;
- How to apply for a job online;
- How to search the Internet, especially small business and community development sites;
- How to evaluate the information found on the Internet (Information Literacy);
- Other, please specify _____

9. Describe your **planned** technology resources, i.e.

a. Number and age of computers available for the public _____

- b. Network connectivity, e.g. DSL, Dial-up, Cable

- c. Wireless availability _____
- d. Laptops for checkout in the library _____
- e. Computer lab _____
- f. Web page support _____
- ___ Library staff maintains website
 ___ Outsourced to an internet service provider
 ___ Library volunteer maintains website
 ___ Outsourced to an individual in the community
- g. Other, please specify _____

Letters of Support

Please provide evidence of support from your community to participate in the next phase of our LSTA grant program, “**Expanding the Entrepreneurial Role of Rural Libraries.**” Examples of evidence include but are not limited to: letters of support from library board members, economic development officers, and the Chamber of Commerce. Please mail/fax your library’s application and letters of support by **February 15, 2008** to:

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Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455
309/298-2762
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1/30/08

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