

Early Literacy Community Development Online Course – Winter 2015

Course Description and Purpose

In 2015, as part of the [Growing Wisconsin Readers](#) early literacy initiative, the Public Library Development Team (PLDT) at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) offered a professional development opportunity for Wisconsin public youth services librarians and their community partners in spring 2015. The Early Literacy and Community Development (ELCD) course was designed to assist participants in the investigation, analysis, and assessment of the role of the local library in early literacy development within the context of the local community.

The ELCD course was facilitated by a professional instructor. Applicants could apply as a team of three, a pair of two, OR as a single participant if a partner(s) could not be identified. A maximum of 30 persons were assigned to each course session. The four week online course used online tools, readings, exercises, and assignments to support teams through the process of examining the shared role of early literacy efforts within a community-specific framework. Coursework involved weekly individual assignments completed asynchronously.

Completion of the coursework resulted in a location-specific asset map and action plan. Participants who completed the course were eligible for a mini-grant to stimulate action plan objectives. Participants who completed the course received 1.4 CEUs/14 LEUs and a print certificate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies Continuing Education Services (SLIS CES). CEU/LEUs can be applied toward Wisconsin Public Library Certification or Wisconsin Early Care Professional Development (The Registry). The ELCD course was offered for a limited time and was not open to the general public. The ELCD course and materials were made possible through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The following participants were the library leads for teams/pairs/individuals that completed the course and mini-grant projects:

- Darla Allen, Charles & JoAnn Lester Library
- Kelly Allen, Oregon Public Library
- Kirsten Almo, Edgerton Public Library
- Linda Aulik, Kewaunee Public Library
- Patti Blount, Durand Community Library
- Mary Alice Bodden, Theresa Public Library
- Esther Burns, Marion Public Library
- Denise Chojnacki, Rhinelander District Library
- Kerin Colson, Schreiner Memorial Library
- Jody DelaGardelle, Kilbourn Public Library
- Erica Grunseth, Abbotsford Public Library
- Kimberly Hennings, Friday Memorial Library
- Kaushalya Iyengar, Waukesha Public Library
- Michelle Johnson, Hammond Community Library
- Sandy Kallunki, Brown County Library
- Lesley Kircher, Madison Public Library
- Patricia Lamon, Walter E. Olson Memorial Library
- Lisa Langsdorf, Kenosha Public Library
- Jenny Ludeman, Clinton Public Library
- Julia Metcalf, Oxford Public Library
- Patti Meyer, Larsen Family Public Library
- Brooke Newberry, La Crosse Public Library
- Kymberley Pelky, Oneida Community Library
- Heide Piehler, Shorewood Public Library
- Carrie Portz, Barneveld Public Library
- Christy Ross, Brandon Public Library
- Alison Senkevitch, East Troy Lions Public Library
- Valerie Spooner, Rusk County Community Library
- Julia Tenor, Oshkosh Public Library
- Elizabeth Tubman, Elisha D. Smith Public Library

The following is a description provided as part of the coursework application process in 2015.

Course Instructor

The ELCD course instructor, Sharon Grover, has worked with children her entire professional career. Most recently, Ms. Grover has worked as the Head of Youth Services at the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, Wisconsin. As an instructor, she has experience facilitating groups of practitioners using a variety of techniques. Ms. Grover has worked extensively with Wisconsin early childhood practitioners, centers, organizations, and public libraries in recent years as part of Rock County collaborative early literacy efforts.

Course Participants

Wisconsin communities that are currently experiencing difficult, limited, or minimized early childhood connections are encouraged to identify applicants. Applicants may apply as a team of three, a pair of two, OR as a single participant if a partner(s) cannot be identified. Pairs/teams must work in the same municipality/community. Applicants who apply as a pair or team of three must commit to participating in the course as a group. Participants must complete the course in order to be eligible for a mini-grant. Individual participation will determine completion; the course will be evaluated pass/fail.

For teams of three, at least one, but no more than two, team member(s) must represent the public library in roles such as youth services librarian, library director, library staff, or library board member (no MLS required). Non-library team members might include: Head Start director or education coordinator, child care director, school district librarian, school district four-year old kindergarten coordinator, elementary school principal, early childhood special education personnel, community literacy agency staff, child care resource and referral agency, UW Extension Agency, community action commission, United Way, or technical college faculty. An ideal team of three will include members who have combined experience working with children and families, making program and budget decisions, and networking with community members and organizations.

For pairs, at least one member must represent the public library in roles such as youth services librarian, library director, library staff, or library board member (no MLS required). The second member can be a library or non-library group member.

Single participants must represent the public library in roles such as youth services librarian, library director, library staff, or library board member (no MLS required).

Course Timeline

Participants will participate in a single four week long course during spring 2015. Two sessions will be offered. The online team application closes on November 30, 2014. All applicants, regardless of acceptance or wait-list status, will be informed by December 15, 2014. Single/pairs/teams will be assigned to one of the following sessions:

Session A

Sunday, January 4, 2015-Saturday, January 31, 2015

Session B

Sunday, February 8, 2015-Saturday, March 7, 2015

Course Fee and Expectations

There is no fee to apply for the ELCD course. Participants selected for the course will have their course fees paid for through a grant from IMLS; there is no direct cost to participate. Participants are expected to engage with other participants and the course instructor throughout the four-week course. Participants may complete individual tasks asynchronously each week; however, pair/team members will be required to check in with each other several times throughout the course, either in person or by phone. Coursework will require use of online tools and completion of readings, exercises, and assignments.

If any participant drops out of the course after it begins, \$30 registration fee will be assessed.

Course Mini-Grants

Mini-grants ranging from \$200-\$250 will be awarded to public libraries upon single/pair/team completion of the course. Mini-grants must be used to stimulate action plan objectives developed during the course; projects should benefit the community, not just the library.

Mini-grant funds must be used within three months of completing the course. Funds will be distributed on a [reimbursement](#) basis; funds must be used according to LSTA guidelines for [allowable costs](#). Possible mini-grant projects might include:

- hosting a local early childhood community roundtable meeting
- establishing a new babies welcome kit program
- developing coordinated outreach programs and services
- providing transportation to family early literacy training

Course Coordination

The ELCD course is administered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison [School of Library and Information Studies Continuing Education Services](#). The ELCD course is a professional development component of the Growing Wisconsin Readers early literacy initiative coordinated by the [Youth and Special Services](#) consultant on the [Public Library and Development Team](#) at the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#). For more information about Growing Wisconsin Readers, visit [GrowingWisconsinReaders.org](#) or contact Tessa Michaelson Schmidt at tessa.schmidt@dpi.wi.gov.

