MATCHING GRANT FUNDS IN 2020

Linda Knupp, NCKLS Director

In 2020, the requirement for matching funds to receive Service Improvement Grants or Technology Grants from NCKLS will be reduced from $250 per grant to $100. Legally established public libraries in NCKLS taxing counties are eligible to apply for these grants annually, and may receive up to $1,000 to apply toward technology and toward upgrading features or services that make the library a welcoming place. That’s an opportunity to receive up to $2,000 in 2020 to meet needs in your community, and it is a great return on your investment of $200. Complete information about each grant, as well as other NCKLS grants, may be found at [http://lib.nckls.org/grants/](http://lib.nckls.org/grants/).

Qualifying libraries only have to come up with $100 for each of these grant opportunities. There are a number of creative ways to raise $100 to $200 if you don’t have funds in your budget. Begin by clearly defining why you are asking for donations. An appeal should have a goal and what result you hope to achieve. Some examples might include raising $100 for a $1,000 matching grant to:

- Purchase 6 Launchpad tablets with reading readiness software for beginning readers
- Upgrade staff computers
- Install new shelving, paint the library, buy comfortable seating, or even roof repair

You can think of a number of things that your library needs or services or features you would like to offer that fit into the guidelines of these grants.

How long do you think would it take to raise $100 if you had a loose change jar at your circulation desk?

How long would it take if you worked with your board members to create a list of 10 people you could ask to contribute $10 toward your fundraising goal, or five people who would donate $20? Is there one individual, club or business that could contribute $100 to benefit the community? Donations provide an opportunity for others to demonstrate their generosity and support. Ways to thank donors can be as simple as a card, a donor list in the library, web site or local publication.
Many years ago, I was a member of a civic organization that held a silent auction of baskets and items to raise money to purchase food and toys for families in need during the holiday season. While the intention was good, the execution failed. In making assignments, no one was charged with figuring out what price auction items should be sold at in order to make money for the effort. Since that time, I’ve always considered the most successful fundraisers to be direct appeals for funds as opposed to labor intensive gimmicks, sales and events. However, sometimes it is fun and worthy to connect fundraising to activities that have potential for some positive publicity and to connect the entire community in support of the library in terms of both money and spirit. Make sure you have the support of your board and a policy about what gifts you accept and what recognition you provide when raising money and accepting donations.

Learning more about successful fundraising and development of revenue sources outside of tax support is a goal for me in 2020, and I’d be glad to learn more from you about your efforts to increase donations to your library. If you need assistance or would like to discuss options for these grants, contact me or other NCKLS staff for assistance.

“Qualifying libraries only have to come up with $100 for each of the NCKLS grant opportunities.”

THE CENSUS IS COMING!

2020 Census reminders

1. Libraries should be prepared for an influx of people with no computer or Internet-connected device who need help getting logged onto the census website.

2. Librarians should not help answer or interpret the questions on the census. Assistance should be limited to making sure they are able to log on.

3. Libraries play a role in providing reliable census information. For instance, there are likely to be scams pretending to be with the census. You can let your patrons know that the Census Bureau will never ask for full Social Security numbers, money, credit card numbers, or bank account information. Also, the census will not share your information with anyone, even other government agencies. Only data totals are public; information from individuals is closed for 72 years (as genealogists are well aware).

4. Encouraging people to respond to the census is another worthwhile library role. Under-counts mean that Kansas or your community may be underrepresented in Congress or the Legislature. It’s estimated that each uncounted person costs the community over $5,000 annually.
STATE LIBRARIAN
READS AT CGPL

State Librarian, Eric Norris, had the privilege of
being a guest reader at a special storytime in
Council Grove on Tuesday, November 12. Eight
preschoolers attended the reading on a very
cold Tuesday. CGPL partnered with Parents as
Teachers and the State Library of Kansas to
present the storytime. After reading, Mr Norris
joined the children in completing a craft and
everyone enjoyed a snack.

Continuing Education opportunities are always
available from the State Library of Kansas.
Look here: https://kslib.info/306/Continuing-Education

Niche Academy tutorials are found on the NCKLS website https://lib.nckls.org/
These resources are helpful to librarians using the Staff tab on the right-hand side
of the website or patrons using the Niche Academy tab under the staff tab. Direct
anyone looking for technology information to the website. They will find quick
videos on many topics.

Emporia to celebrate
150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Emporia Public Library in-
vites the community to join in
celebrating the library’s 150th
anniversary on December 14th
from 2-4 p.m. Stop by the library
to enjoy a slice of anniversary cake
and enjoy fun activities for all ages
- games, crafts, and face painting!

The Emporia Public Library began
in 1869 as the Emporia Library
Association and has since then
grown from a small, membership
funded association into a tax-
supported library. Today, the
library serves Emporia and the
surrounding area by providing
resources, programming, and
outreach services and materials to
meet the needs of the community.
The library is proud to be enrich-
ing the lives of Kansans and en-
hancing their quality of life.

Robin Newell, Executive Director
of the Emporia Public Library,
says “I am excited to see the li-
brary celebrate 150 years of ser-
vice, especially with the changes
we have seen recently with new
services we are able to offer to our
community. I look forward to
working with our staff, library
board and the Emporia and Lyon
County community to plan for
future years of library services.”

Emporia Public Library is located
at 110 E. 6th Ave. For more infor-
mation, please contact the library
at 620-340-6462 or visit empori-
alibrary.org.
TECHNOLOGY TRAINER UPDATE

By LaDonna Clark

Approximately 59 million Americans have a disability. Is your website accessible to those with a disability?

In 2008, the Americans with Disability Amendment Act broadened the scope of how a disability is legally defined: psychological, emotional, and physiological conditions are now included.

The ADA consists of five sections overseeing different aspects:
Title I: Employment
Title II: Public entities
Title III: Public accommodations
Title IV: Telecommunications
Title V: Miscellaneous provisions.

Please note that Title II and Title III both apply to web accessibility.

You can learn more about accessibility at https://webaim.org/articles/.

Find out how to check your website for accessibility by hosting or planning to attend a future Web Accessibility Workshop. Contact technology trainer, LaDonna Clark, for more information on website accessibility.

Blindness and Visual Impairment: Including tunnel vision and color blindness.

Deafness and Hearing Impairment: Including total deafness.

Speech and Language: Communication disorders, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, or a language or voice impairment.

Physical: Inability using the mouse by either a temporary or permanent injury, or having a neurological disease, like Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson’s Disease.

Cognitive: Including a wide variety of disabilities, from Down Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Autism, Dementia, Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Disorder, and learning disabilities.

INCLUSIVE STORYTIMES

Question posted on jbrary.com this month:

If a library is interested in making their storytime more welcoming to children of all abilities and learning styles but don’t have the time or budget for a total re-design, what are three simple things that can be changed or added to make storytime more inclusive right away?

Answer
1. Create and implement a visual schedule. There are lots of examples online. Find one that works the best for you!
2. Incorporate more visuals and methods that allow for multiple means of communication. For everything you say or do, try to think of how you can express that activity or concept with a picture, object, or action.
3. Pick interactive books or adapt the stories you have to make them more interactive with the use of felt, die cuts, Popsicle stick props, or scarves.

Complete post can be found at: https://jbrary.com/guest-post-making-storytimes-more-inclusive/
I attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference in Omaha, NE on October 23-25th. It was thought-provoking to see what other libraries across the country are doing in library services. There were 8 bookmobiles to tour! From bookmobiles, pop-up libraries and lobby stops, to book bikes, there are many different ways to do library outreach. One thing I learned, is no one does a rotating book van service like the North Central Kansas Libraries System does. Looking forward to seeing you in 2020! ~Denise Coon, Rotating Book Coordinator
FUN READING FOR YOUR FREE TIME

By Marcia Allen

Once in a while, it’s just nice to read for sheer pleasure. Run-
ning with Sherman by Christopher McDougall is the perfect choice
for such reading, and there are several reasons why. You will delight in
this nonfiction tale of rescue and conquest, as you chuckle at the book’s
tighter moments.

Sherman is a male donkey who was subjected to the worst kind
of abuse and neglect in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. McDougall
and his daughters, who lived nearby, went to visit the animal and found
him tightly enclosed in a manure-filled stall with filthy straw underfoot.
To their further horror, they discovered that his hooves had not been
trimmed for a long time; for that reason, he could not walk. He clearly
needed a rescue plan that McDougall’s daughters earnestly wanted to
begin.

Sympathetic neighbors soon came to the rescue. One carefully
trimmed the donkey’s hooves, and another came over later to begin
trimming dead hair and shampooing the newly-named Sherman. One
neighbor told McDougall quite firmly that Sherman needed a job or a
purpose in life to help him heal.

McDougall, author of Born to Run, is something of an expert
on ultra-runners, those folks who run very long distances in adverse
climates. At some point during his research into distance running, he
learned about the burro races held each year in Leadville, Colorado.
Each burro and its human partner must travel up and back down a
mountain for a distance of 26 miles to finish the race in Fairplay, Colo-
rado. In fact, McDougall himself made a very disappointing attempt
but never finished the race a few years earlier. Why, he wondered,
couldn’t Sherman train for that race?

And so, the training began. The would-be burro racers enlisted
yet more help, like that of Lawrence, the ram, who was raised around
humans and who quickly befriended Sherman and became a calming
companion. Family members and friends also helped, getting Sherman
used to walking through streams and over rougher terrain.

Was the race a success for Sherman? You’ll have to read this
humorous and touching book to learn the outcome of one of the most
unusual animal rescues lovingly retold.