



Partnering to Meet Community Workforce Needs

First in the free PLA webinar series

Public Libraries: Partners in Workforce Development

August 19, 2021

Series Overview

As the nation begins recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people are seeking opportunities to build skills, find and improve job prospects, and prepare for in-demand careers. PLA is collaborating with Libswork, a national networking group on workforce development and small business, on the *Public Libraries: Partners in Workforce Development* webinar series with the following overall goals:

- Establish and promote relevant resources, tools, and training for library and workforce partners to strengthen community workforce and career services;
- Increase library staff awareness of the workforce ecosystem, program and service options, and potential collaborators and funders;
- Increase library staff confidence and likelihood to (co)develop and/or expand workforce and career services for local and state residents;
- Document and share successes with library and workforce partners and other key stakeholders

Local Library Workforce Assets

- Reach: 17,000 public library locations
- Expertise and Diverse Resources: staff, collections, training, and credentials
- Flexible & Sustainable Collaboration: trusted networks

[America's Libraries: Essential Partners in Workforce & Career Services](#)

Recognition of libraries as workforce partners

In 2010, the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration issued a Training and Employment Notice (50-09) encouraging partnerships between the Workforce Investment System and Public Libraries.

In 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:

- Named libraries as optional One-Stop Center partners
- Made libraries an “eligible provider” of adult education and literacy services
- Included state focus on digital literacy skills to leverage and build on library services
- Enabled states to use funds to improve coordination of employment and training activities with adult education and literacy activities—including from libraries

Recent/current opportunities

- Federal funding for relief and economic recovery from pandemic
 - CARES Act
 - ARPA
 - Infrastructure bill
- Potential to reauthorize and update WIOA
- Positioning libraries as essential partners

Planned Webinar Topics

- Partnering to Meet Community Workforce Needs—August 19
- [Strengthen Patron Workforce Opportunities with Labor Market Information](#)—August 26
- Supporting Patrons to Obtain In-demand Credentials and Boost Employability and Career Mobility—September 23
- Building Adult Literacy as a Foundation Employment Opportunity—September 30
- Connecting Library Digital Literacy Resources to Worker/Employer Needs—October 21
- Youth Workforce Readiness—October 28
- November and December in development



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Next Steps

- Partner: [Local Workforce Systems Guide](#) (Urban Institute); find your local [American Job Center](#)
- Connect: [PLA Interest Group](#) (member-only) and [ALA Connect](#) (log-in needed)
- Fund/sustain: [ARPA](#) resources (ALA)
- Assess: Project Outcome assessment tools and case studies: www.ala.org/pla/data/performance measurement
- Advocate: www.ala.org/advocacy/workforce
- Learn more: PLA landing page

Additional Resources

- Public Libraries & Workforce Development: <https://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/workforce>
- PLA digital literacy resources and projects: www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/digitalliteracy
- [LibsWork](#) information sharing of state and public libraries (enter libswork as the list name and provide email address to join)
- WebJunction Community Partnership & Collaboration Guide (2012): https://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Community_Partner_Collaboration_Guide.html
- My contact: Larra Clark, lclark@ala.org



Strengthen Patron Workforce Opportunities with Labor Market Information

Thursday, August 26 at 12:00 PM Central

Next in the free PLA webinar series
**Public Libraries: Partners in
Workforce Development**

www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars/strengthen

