

Addressing Timely Issues: The Basic Elements for Supporting Members

This can be considered a menu of options that could be pruned, expanded or adapted to fit the particular topic or issue. Use this as a resource when creating documents and proposals for discussion at board meetings.

Advocacy & Activism

- Incorporate the issue into summer reading/learning efforts, Teen Read Week™ and/or Teen Tech Week™
- Create position and/or issue papers on the issue

Research & Best Practices

- Encourage appropriate YALSA publications (inc. blogs) to publish information about the issues, and or host a themed issue or month
- Identify and highlight existing related resources from ALA and beyond to YALSA members
 - Adapt the resources, if necessary
- Create national guidelines or standards on the issue
- Create a grant, contest or award to promote, gather and highlight best practices
- In order to help members better understand and support the issue, a toolkit could be developed that would include:
 - An overview of the issue
 - Information on why it's important for members to understand and support the issue
 - How to conduct outreach to connect with community groups that can help libraries address the issue.
 - Examples of best practices and/or emerging practices
 - Talking points on the role the public and school libraries play in supporting the issue

Continuous Learning

- Create new CE on the topic, as appropriate, including creating Academy videos
- Incorporate the issue into existing CE offerings
- Direct members towards existing CE from other organizations, either inside or outside ALA
- Participate in targeted conferences on the topic and/or create canned presentations that individuals can give at local or regional events

Member Engagement & Recruitment

- As needed, get feedback from members to identify or prioritize specific needs in relation to the topic
- Recruit individuals to start an Interest Group on the topic
- Build out an issue focused page on the wiki seeded with a list of existing useful resources, further reading, etc. and then encourage members to add content to the page
- Set up an email listserv where individuals with an interest in the topic can connect

Capacity Building

- Identify and partner with outside organizations, as appropriate, to create resources and opportunities for members
- Identify ways YALSA could collaborate with and/or support other appropriate ALA units

- Establish a member taskforce or standing committee to support the issue
- Determine whether there's a good opportunity to create and sell a particular product or service in relation to the issue

Other

- Anything else you think is necessary