

MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Program 2018-19

MHLS Early Literacy efforts focus on training for member library staff in support of making their library a vital community partner and early learning hub in their community. Based on the successful model of the current Phase I MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Program, **we are announcing Cohort II with a new group of libraries.**

The MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Program is a great opportunity if your library would like to really work on building its capacity, as part of your library's long range/strategic planning, to provide early literacy services in your community based on the best practices of this parent education initiative. Participants will receive additional support and resources to implement early literacy related services in their library and incorporate research based methods into enhanced early literacy story times.

Limited to 12 libraries, Cohort II will run from January 2018 to June 2019. During that time Cohort libraries will receive:

- **TRAINING:** There will be 6 mandatory meetings/trainings that will cover the full curriculum of the *Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program*.
 - Early Literacy Community Asset Analysis
 - Strengthening Young Families through Early Literacy Practices
 - Strategies for Successful Partnerships and Outreach to Families with Young Children
 - Early Learning Spaces
 - Everyone Serves Families with Young Children

- **SUPPORT**
 - from MHLS staff to:
 - develop and implement an early literacy action plan for your community
 - develop local partnerships with childhood organizations
 - implement early literacy related services in your library
 - from member library peers in the cohort, all working to enhance their library's ability to achieve the goal of educating children and parents/caregivers through early literacy programs
 - over \$500 of early literacy professional support books to help build your in-house professional collection

- **FUNDS** to the library:
 - \$800 for early literacy materials for the provision of early literacy programs in your library:
 - \$50 stipend for each of the required 6 trainings/meetings



Information & Requirements

Eligibility Criteria:

- All libraries who did not participate in the Phase 1 MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Program are welcome and encouraged to apply. The Early Literacy Cohort II Program is limited to 12 libraries. If more than 12 apply, preference will be given to member libraries in the areas most in need¹.

To Apply:

- Fill out and submit the attached brief application to Merribeth Advocate at MHLS. Applications must be received by February 2, 2018. Libraries that will be in the Early Literacy Cohort will be notified before February 16, 2018. The grant project period ends on June 30, 2019.

Requirements:

- Directors of participating libraries will commit that the staff that they designate for the Cohort will fulfill all of the training, development, implementation and reporting requirements prior to June 2019 including:
 - attend a total of 6 in-person training/meetings which includes training in all 5 elements of the Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program
 - respond monthly to topics posted in the MHLS Early Literacy online forum
 - develop and implement an Early Literacy Action Plan for the community
 - develop local partnerships with childhood organizations
 - implement early literacy related services in the library
 - gather & report 'Early Childhood Literacy' feedback from parents/caregivers participating in early literacy programs through Project Outcome²

Questions? Contact Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director | [advocate@midhudson.org](mailto:madvocate@midhudson.org) | 845-471-6060 x254

¹ Based on percentage of population living in poverty as shown on the latest federal census, and the percentage of student enrollment that is eligible for free and reduced lunch under the national school lunch program.

² <https://www.projectoutcome.org/>

MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Project 2018-19
Application
Due February 2, 2018 to MHLS (attention Merribeth Advocate)

Library name: _____

Designated staff name _____ Email: _____

By signing this MHLS Early Literacy Cohort Project application, I hereby verify and certify that staff that I designate for the Cohort will fulfill all of the training, development, implementation and reporting requirements prior to June 2019 including:

- attend a total of 6 in-person training/meetings which includes training in all 5 elements of the Ready to Read at New York Libraries: Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program
- respond monthly to topics posted in the MHLS Early Literacy online forum
- develop and implement an Early Literacy Action Plan for the community
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Library Director signature

date

