

LITERACY BRIDGES



Empowering 21st
Century Communities

Grant opportunity made possible by

Andrew Carnegie
FOUNDATION

and



ARSL
THE ASSOCIATION FOR
RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES



LITERACY BRIDGES

- Invitation-only competitive grant
 - Must be a Carnegie-built library
 - Small public library with a legal service population below 25,000
 - Rural public library located more than 10 miles from an urbanized area
- \$25,000 to spend on new or expanded Adult Literacy programming and participation in professional development
- 66 total winners- 33 in each Cohort



EXPECTATIONS

- Attend monthly training sessions via Zoom from July 2026-March 2027
- Attend the 2026 and 2027 ARSL Conferences
 - September 15-20, 2026-Montgomery, Alabama
 - September 14-18, 2027-Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Create local programs that start between April 2027-October 2027



HOW CAN THE MONEY BE SPENT

- Program marketing, including outreach materials, activities, and digital marketing costs
- Materials including books, educational and project supplies, and materials for in-person events
- Technology such as tablets, laptops, software licenses, and digital infrastructure upgrades
- Development of community partnerships and resource sharing
- Data collection, outcome measurement, and other evaluation and grant reporting needs
- Staff hours during training calls and conferences, backup staff coverage, and time delivering programs
- Registration and travel for the staff member to attend the ARSL conferences
- Ongoing staff professional development, such as specialized workshops, certifications, and training beyond this program



SOME EARLY IDEAS

- Support the Literacy Council by funding outreach events for tutors and purchasing a laptop
- Workshops on:
 - Smartphone Basics
 - Online Safety
 - Resume Writing 101
 - Zoom and Online Interview Skills
 - Job Searching online
 - Library Apps (Libby and LINKcat)
 - Intro to Canva
 - AI Basics
- Professional Book Scanner



TIMELINE AND REPORTING

- \$25,000 has already been received
- Money must be spent within two years (June 2028)
- A brief final grant report will be due at the end of the cycle.
 - No receipts or budget will be required.

