

IOWA STORIES 2000

AMES, IOWA

RESULTS OF PUBLIC FORUM HELD OCTOBER 5, 2000

(additions from public forum appear in italics)

Current Literacy Programs or Activities in Ames

Lap story times	Library's public access computers
Children's program at public library	Literacy efforts at shelters
Library programs for adults	America Reads, America Count
Books for Baby	Work Study
Reading literary volunteers from the Faculty Women's Club	School Volunteers in K-12
DMACC English as a Second Language	Boy's and Girl's Club Book Club
Decategorization Grants for tutoring	America's Promise
GED programs	Rotary Early Literacy Project
Friends of International Women "Breakthrough to Literature" Kindergarten	Parenting Programs
GRIP mentoring program	Y-Pals
Story County Collaborative Empowerment Program	School Media Centers
Library Deposit Collections	Recorded Books for the Blind
Head Start	Success 4
ISU Lab C	Wilson Beardshear Early Literacy
Federal & State dollars for smaller class size	Every Child Reads
Kiwanis read at People Place	Federal and State Dollars for Reading in Grades 1-3
Daycare and Childcare Centers	School Reading Goal
National Library Week	Business Partners
Dr. Seuss' Birthday	Volunteers for Texts on Tape
Children's Book Week	Parents Volunteers for Reading
Evangelical Free Church – English as a Second Language	IEO Program at ISU
Foreign language interpreters	ISU Conversational Partners
ISU Book Drives	Bookmobile
Greek system – reading to children	Angel Readers from Greek System w. book donations
	ISU Elementary Education Methods classes
	Extra Edge
	No Fear – Middle School Mentoring
	<i>Business supported prizes for individual and/or classroom reading goals</i>

(Book It, Pizza Hut, Happy Joe's)
Nevada elementary students walk to public library to check out books
Nevada public library books can be left at elementary library for return
D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) in Nevada
School Book Fairs
Parents as Teachers – The Story County
Empowerment Project
MICA's Early Head Start and Head Start Programs

I.S.U. College for Seniors (Elderhostel?)
Children's Readings at the Memorial Union Bookstore (University Book and Supply)
Ames Children's Theatre (i.e., "Lyle the Crocodile")
RIF – Reading is FUNDamental
Public Library Books at Area Nursing Homes
Reading Programs at Religious Schools

Underserved Populations

	Number of Services Targeted To This Group	<i>Number of Participants Who Feel This Group is <u>Underserved</u></i>
Infants and Toddlers	6	11
Preschool	18	11
Elementary	28	3
Middle School	14	17
High School	8	13
College Age	0	4
Adult Non-readers	2	19
Adults Generally	6	10
Seniors/Elders	3	10
Racial/Ethnic Minorities	0	18
English Language Learners	6	16
Disabled or Special Needs	4	8
Poor Children	6	19
Poor Adults	1	20
<i>Families Generally</i>	0	10

Specific Target Population Identified as “Underserved”

During Focus Group

Infants and Toddlers
Preschoolers
Adult Non-readers
Poor Children
Poor Adults

During Public Forum

Middle School
Racial & Ethnic Minorities
English Language Learners
Adult Non-readers
Poor Children
Poor Adults

Gaps in Literacy Programming in Ames

Summer programs for kids
After school programs for kids
Parents of preschoolers
Workplace centered reading/literacy efforts
Transportation to reading/literacy programs
Child care to allow participation in reading/literacy programs
Programs directed to reluctant library users & non-users
Summer programs geared to upper elementary and middle school kids
Cooperative programs or activities for families/parent & child
Attention to Moms and Dads and Infants and Toddlers (e.g., after “Books for Baby”)

Potential Programs or Activities to Reach the Under-served *Focus Group Identified

INFANTS AND TODDLERS:

Existing

Books for Babies (packet for families of newborns)
Babies & Books (lap sit)
Empowerment (parenting programs)
Healthy Futures
People Place Program (after baby comes home from hospital)

Possible projects

Volunteer Rocking and Reading
Homeward Visit

Free Clinic – reading at the clinics
Early Access
Stork's Nest
Pediatricians – “prescribe” 20 minutes of reading
Book-Friendly Work Places
Book Lady (Traveling) to Home Child Care Providers

Possible Community Partners

Mary Greeley
YSS – Healthy Futures
Rotary
McFarland Pediatricians
SCCC – Stork's Nest
ISU Extension
Chamber of Commerce (for book friendly workplaces)
Childcare Centers
AEA Early Access
Library
Public Schools
ISU Residence Department
International Student Office
International Student Groups
Area Churches

PRESCHOOLERS:

Potential Projects

Books in Hand
Parents/Families – books to model reading

“How do you read to your child?”
“What does good reading to preschoolers look like?”
“Books to do it with.”

Use case management – trained to parents/families
Families – monthly meeting get togethers
Childcare
Mentors
Food/Games/Freebies/Transportation
Bookmobile (training years)
Service Learning

Potential Community Partners

Neighborhood groups to identify those in need

FADS
Beyond Welfare
Move the Mountain (Fathers in divorce)
WIC
High Schoolers (service learning)

ADULT NON-READERS OR LOW LEVEL READERS:

Potential Projects

Workplace programs
Lifelong learning
Parent education
Library programs
Lunch hour programs
Advertising (Referrals are best)
Basic computer programs
Community events
Cultural events
Spanish programs
Life skills programs
Mentoring
Library tours/greeters

Possible Partners

MICA
Area Churches
Human Service Agencies (make part of interview process)
Family Resource School Counselors
At-Risk Programs

Issues Raised in Discussion

- Link to Special Populations
- Training providers in literacy methods
- Educating general service providers on how to identify people who need literacy help
- Places where non-readers use services: hospitals, doctors, groceries, gas stations, Laundromats, temporary employment agencies, clinics, Planned Parenthood, Free Clinic, WIC, Food Stamps/Food Pantry, Salvation Army/Goodwill, area churches, bookstores, Post Office,
- Literacy Storytelling Community Fair
- Train parents to read to children – get more comfortable in library
- Distinguish between low level and ESL. Keep in mind when developing programs.

- Parks & Rec parent reading program – less intimidating place, neutral place (community pools, parks, and schools),
- Parks & Rec work with MICA on fees for children – expand to adults – fund scholarships
- Center for Childcare Resources, Home Providers and Other Childcare Centers
 - Formative Years
 - ISU at Vet Med
 - University Community Childcare
 - Play and Learn
 - CSCI
 - Etc.

POOR CHILDREN:

Potential Projects and *Community Partners

Transportation to literacy activities that already exist.

*Public transportation scholarships and grants

After school literacy programs ONSITE and Literacy programs at schools during summer, including book clubs and computer clubs

*Schools, churches, Senior citizens, grants

Help families to build their own libraries

*Recycling, businesses

Mentors – expanding current programs

*Youth serving agencies

Lunch Buddies - Volunteers who read to children on their lunch hours

*Local businesses and local youth serving agencies

Potential Programs or Activities to Reach the Under-served

****Public Forum Identified***

LOW INCOME PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Projects and Partners:

Community kickoff related to focus

Book drive – volunteer opportunities

Membership signup

Partnerships to encourage “family literacy”

Adults need to develop trusting relationships before they will allow themselves to be invested.

**Take home and rotating libraries for targeted groups.
Literacy information to Stork's Nest**

Headstart - Family literacy needs

Parents establish family goals

Classes and groups

Family Development Specialists

Meet with LCL

Take home libraries – teachers accumulate

Partner with other agencies, including sororities and ISU Women's Club

Satellite libraries – rotating collection

Boys & Girls Club needs circulating library (“nuts and bolts”)

Boys & Girls Club makes books for Headstart

Make book available. Help get kids excited.

Key Club book source for Boys and Girls Club

“Reasons to Read” program – 2 hour long program each day (with field trips, guest readers, etc.)

Community Kickoff

Tape recording books

Reading journals with logs

Educate parents on how to help their children's reading

Headstart has monthly parents meetings, video, handouts (focus on broad literacy aspects)

Job skills, employment applications

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Issues:

Middle Schoolers lose interest. Hormones. Developmental. Social Pressure.

Projects:

Reading Groups – Kids and Parents Book Groups

Mother-daughter group with reading and discussion

“Let's Talk About It” Program

Sharing

Ames Children's Theatre
Reader's Theatre – summer maybe
Teen volunteers – 11-14 (i.e., Spencer, IA)
Poorer reading skills
Write your own theatre
Tape
Imagination

Enlist community "celebrities" or "sports heroes" (i.e. football & basketball players who can read) to be reading mentors

Friday night
Popcorn, game, role-playing, improvisation, dungeons & dragons, charades, story telling, read aloud, choose your own adventure

Wizards of the Coast (www.wizards.com)

Partners:

Bookstores
Public library
Schools
Theatres and theatre groups
Iowa State University
ISU Memorial Union, especially the single parents group
Youth agencies
Boys & Girls Club

RACIAL AND/OR ETHNIC MINORITIES (INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS)

Projects and activities:

Cultural Fairs
Books for Babies/Books for Minorities
Mentoring program
Paid time away from work for family together reading (e.g. Wednesday lunches to read to your child)
State knock off \$\$\$ from child support due as incentive to read to child or attend program on how to read to child
Monthly recognition of cultures at library
Library information (catalogue, web site) in multiple languages
Retired people and others to go to workplace during breaks to mentor in reading

Tapes of books and AV equipment to take home. One side in English and the other side in language of family.

Community reading of same book and then have programs to talk about it.

Radio stations broadcast books, etc. in other languages.

Public Service Announcements on radio geared especially to minorities

Channel 12 or 7 programs – available at libraries and schools in other languages.

9:55 Community read

Tree of Books – writing, stories that keep growing

Christmas tree at the Mall with books on it for specific kids

Taping stories in other languages or from other ethnic groups.

Book drop-offs at Casey's or grocery stores.

Partners and Connections:

Landowners/apartment owners to pass on to renters

ISU Foreign language department

Sister Cities of Ames

Sister Libraries of Ames

Teachers

Mentors of diverse populations

MICA and food pantry

Workplaces (employers)

Mary Greeley

Retired people

Churches

ISU students to tape books or make CDs

Scholastic

Radio stations

Cultural organization, e.g. Friends of Foreign Wives

ADULT NON-READERS (INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS)

Issues:

- *Can't learn "how to learn"*
- *English is not first language*
- *Come to Ames to work or attend university*
- *What are the expectations of international families?*
- *What services would be of interest / would they like to see from our communities?*

Projects and Partners:

Conduct needs assessment for literacy and reading information

Assess what families need from their communities

***Provide information on literacy and reading programs with
emphasis on the ESL/ELL aspects***

Partner with International student groups and school ESL programs

***Bring in literacy and reading programs to other "at risk" programs
directed at young parents (for the adult nonreaders who are not
international students)***

Partner with Stork's Nest

***Purchase foreign language books in libraries and incorporate them
in reading programs, especially children's readings***

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN PUBLIC FORUM WORKSHEETS

Diana Shonrock

Office: 152 Parks Library, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

Office: 294-7866

Home: 318 Hickory Drive, Ames, IA 50014

Pauline Sampson

920 Carroll Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

239-3737

Organization: Ames Schools

1. Parent Link (activities for parents to enjoy books with their child)
2. Preschoolers and families are the target audience
3. LSS, YSS, ISU Extension, Ames Schools, and Ames Public Library are involved in the project
4. Poor preschoolers are not being served

Bobby Countryman

ISU Women's Club

1. Reading Literacy Volunteers

Donna Miller

1318 Glendale Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

233-9382 or 956-3333

email: dmiller@midiaca.org

Organization: Mid Iowa Community Action – Early Head Start and Head Start

1. Early Head Start and Head Start programs focus on literacy development – serving low-income families with children age birth to 5
2. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers of low-income families, & family literacy as approach to serve the entire family's literacy needs
3. Head Start classrooms in Slater, Nevada, and Story City also participate in project
4. Low-income adults are not being served; infants and toddlers are only being served in a limited capacity

Dawn Rahfeldt

P. O. Box 241, Ames, IA 50010

233-1872

email: dawnmarah@aol.com

Organization: Boys and Girls Club of Ames

1. Homework Help – members are given points for completing their homework and receive points for reading (one point per minute). They then turn in their points for prizes. We get kids who will read for an hour or more. They are motivated to keep coming back to the learning center. We encourage them to read books “out of the box” then they are accustomed to.
2. 7-13 years olds, the majority of whom are low-income, are the target audience
3. Club staff, Ames Public Library Book Deposit and Bookmobile are also involved in the project
4. Low-income families (parents & children) and ethnic/minorities are not being served

Andrea Hill

Ames Public Library

515 Douglas Avenue, Ames, IA

239-5642

email: arhill@iastate.edu

Organization: Literacy Changes Lives

1. Adult Literacy – serving adults aged 18 and up living in Story County. Adults are matched one-on-one with volunteer literacy tutors
2. Adults wishing to improve their reading, writing, communicating, and math skills are the target audience
3. The Des Moines Area Community College, Ames Public Library, Friends of Ames Public Library, and community volunteers are also involved in the project. The involvement of sponsors allows the program to offer all services free of charge
4. ?

Lisa Hill

1505 Burnett Avenue, Ames, IA 50010

233-9332

Organization: Colo-Nesco Community Schools/Friends of the Ames Public Library

1. Friends “Books for Baby.” Also sponsor of summer reading program prizes. As a high school English teacher I’m helping student to develop greater understanding of texts, becoming better readers and writers too.
2. New mothers and their newborns are target audience of Friends project. At Colo-Nesco, the target audience is high school students
3. Mary Greeley Medical Center and other hospitals in Story County are involved in Books for Baby; other high school English teachers are involved in the Colo-Nesco program

4. Middle school and high school are underserved by community literacy projects

"I would love to be more involved in Iowa Stories 2000 in the Ames area!"

Sarah Schweitzer
205 S. Hyland, Ames, IA 50010
292-6493

Organization: Reading Forever

1. Reading Forever is forming at the moment
2. Families with children ages 8 and up are the target audience
3. Area schools and libraries and ISU Memorial Union Staff will be involved in the project also
4. Families as a whole are underserved by community literacy efforts

Richard Llewellyn
152 Parks Library, ISU, Ames, IA 50010
294-1004

email: rllewellyn@gwgate.lib.iastate.edu

Organization: ISU Parks Library

"I'm too new to town to know about local programs or problems, but I am interested in working on local programs."

Terry Stark
Nevada Public Library (Trustee)
382-6966

email: tstark@midiowa.net

1. Books for Babies; and D.E.A.R.
2. Infants and toddlers; and all ages
3. Area schools are also involved in the project
4. Ethnic/racial groups, toddlers, and seniors are underserved by community literacy efforts

Dallas Rust
1610 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010
239-3785

email: drust@ames.k12.ia.us

Sally Lapan
2727 Duff, Ames, IA 50010
232-0762

email: smlapan@hotmail.com

Organization: Ames Jewish Congregation

1. Ames Public Library – adult literacy and children's programs
2. Adults non-readers and children k-6 grades