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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE



DIVISION OF
LIBRARY and
INFORMATION SERVICES

Community Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter for Community Engagement & Resources

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E-government resources



Statewide portal for
county and local
resources, organized
by county.

July 2019

Community Engagement & Resources Program

Welcome to Community Connections!

The Community Engagement and Resources Program is officially open for business! The Community Engagement and Resources Program connects libraries to programmatic opportunities, community engagement resources and e-government information.

Are you confused about why you're receiving the *Community Connections* e-newsletter? The E-Government Program has evolved to better meet the needs of libraries in Florida.

As a result, *Gateway to E-Government* has been retired. The new e-newsletter, *Community Connections*, will provide information and resources for e-government services, community engagement and programming opportunities.

If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, there is an unsubscribe button at the very bottom; but, we hope you'll stay with us!



Career and job
resources from
the Florida Electronic
Library.



Going Visual: Youth Services Stats

Public libraries provide unique and engaging programs for Florida's youth, from birth to teenagers. Libraries offer storytimes, coding clubs, makerspaces and many other creative programs.

Over three million people attended youth programs during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Are you curious how much money public libraries saved Floridians in youth programming alone? Check out our [data display](#) for the answer!



We will develop more data displays in the future, including fillable forms so you can enter your library's statistics. If you'd like us to create one with your library's information, email kaycee.shiley@dos.myflorida.com.

E-Government

Did you miss the Legal Resources for Disaster Survivors webinar with Kathy Grunewald, Disaster Coordinator Attorney with Legal Services of North Florida?

The webinar provided valuable legal resources to some of the most common challenges survivors experienced after Hurricane Michael. The [recording](#) is available on our YouTube channel if you want to brush up on your resource knowledge.



Innovation Grant Spotlight

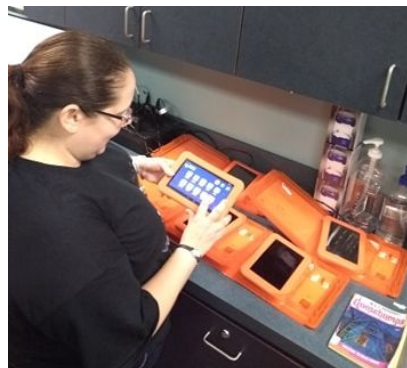
When the Bureau of Library Development put out a call for Innovation Grant applications last year, we received so many creative ideas from libraries across the state. Below is just one example of a library striving to meet the needs of its community.

Renae Rountree, Washington County Public Library Director, recognized a need in her community when The Office of Early Learning reported that about 45% of children in Washington County were unprepared to start school.

To help combat the digital gap, Renae purchased Launchpads pre-loaded with educational content geared toward three- to five-year-old children. Launchpads are available at each of the library's locations, and seven of the devices are checked out to the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida. From there, they are shared with school readiness providers in Washington County.

Renae reported that the program has received a lot of interest and use from families in the community. She also provided some quick tips for libraries that might be interested in duplicating this program:

- Buy the warranty for an extra year. It's \$10/device, but it's worth the extra cost.
- Reassure parents that the devices are covered by warranty, as many parents are concerned about the cost of having to replace the devices if they are lost or damaged.



Buzzword: Innovation

I recently participated in a month-long *Innovation in Libraries* training through Library Juice Academy. We hear "innovation" almost everywhere we turn these days, but in the library world, innovation can look different depending upon the

community a library serves.

Fifteen innovation experts provide their definitions of innovation in this [article](#). They also share common mistakes they see companies make, and offer tips.

I particularly like Drew Boyd's simple definition of innovation: *Anything that is new, useful and surprising*.

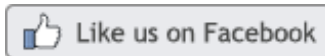
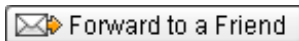
What's your definition of innovation? Email me at kaycee.shiley@dos.myflorida.com and we'll share it on social media!



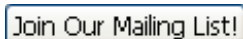
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The Community Engagement and Resources program and this newsletter are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Florida's LSTA program is administered by the Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services.

