



# Community Connections



The Community Engagement and Resources Program Newsletter

October 2021

## Stars in the Sunshine State: Boca Raton City Spirit Award



We know that libraries in Florida are doing amazing things in their communities. The Stars in the Sunshine State webpage highlights some of the special projects, achievements and awards that we learn about and want to share with others.

[StoryWalks Win City Spirit Award](#) is a recent addition to the Stars webpage. The Boca Raton Public Library received an award from Florida's League of Cities for the StoryWalks located at two of their library branches. Learn how the library developed a partnership with other community organizations to create the StoryWalks and the community's response to this initiative!

Do you have a project, program or achievement you'd like other Florida library staff to know about? Let me know at [Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com) or at 850.245.6636

I invite *you* to become a part of the Stars in the Sunshine State focus group! The purpose of the group is to measure the impact of this initiative, identify ways to improve Stars visibility and expand its reach, and determine



**STARS IN THE  
SUNSHINE  
STATE**

how we may use Stars to publicize the various innovative services libraries provide their communities. A marketing campaign is in the works, and I plan to have one focus group meeting before the launch of the campaign and one at the campaign's conclusion.

If you would like to be a part of this focus group, please call or email me at 850.245.6636 or [Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com).

## Stars in the Sunshine State Focus Group

### Florida Libraries Are Resourceful!

Florida library staff are no strangers to adapting to new situations and being creative with their outreach.

[Florida Libraries Are Resourceful!](#) is now available on the Bureau of Library Development's website. This new data display showcases some of the services Florida libraries deployed during the summer of 2020.



Image by harishs on Pixabay



### Connection Creators

The third Connection Creators meeting was held September 15. We discussed disaster preparedness, Library Card Sign-Up Month and community gardens/seed libraries.

The [recording of the third meeting](#) is available on BLD's YouTube channel.

The next meeting is **December 2021**. A registration link will be included in a later announcement.

If you would like to be a part of this work group, please email me at [Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Brittany.Wright@dos.myflorida.com).

We're helping the State of Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration spread the word about Florida Medicaid Open Enrollment. Citizens can compare plans and enroll in

Medicaid at  
[FLMedicaidManagedCare.com](http://FLMedicaidManagedCare.com).

Please note, open enrollment periods vary by region in the state of Florida. Find your region's [open enrollment period](#) or call the Agency for Healthcare Administration at 1.877.711.3662 for more information.

Feel free to share this information with your library patrons to help spread the word.

**IT'S HERE!**

FLORIDA MEDICAID 2021

**OPEN  
ENROLLMENT**



Image by the Agency for Health Care  
Administration

## Medicaid Open Enrollment



[delphic](#) (2004). Flood.  
Retrieved from Flickr. [cc by nc  
nd](#)

## Disaster Preparedness and Response

Hurricane season lasts through November 2021. Did you know that the [Community Engagement](#) program offers [Disaster Preparedness and Response](#) information specific to hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters?

Review basic community preparedness resources, including [preparedness videos](#) and information on [creating a disaster plan](#). Read some tips for [After the Hurricane](#) passes through your area.

Wondering what to do before, during or after a disaster? Visit the [Wheel of Resources](#) for information addressing each phase of a major natural event.

## Call for Participation

### The Social Work Approach in Public Libraries: Exploring Current Practice to Inform LIS and Social Work Education

Are you a social worker working in a library? Or are you a librarian or a manager who has a social worker in your library? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Researchers from FSU want to interview librarians, managers (main or branch libraries), and library social workers about the emerging practice of utilizing social workers in public libraries to assist library users.

If selected, you will be asked to participate in an interview on Zoom that will last approximately one hour. Interview participants will receive a \$50 e-gift certificate to compensate for their time. *We would like to hear from you, if you are a manager or librarian and have experience working with a social worker, or you are a social worker in a public library, whether or not this experience is current.*

Please note: you must be 18 years old to participate, and you must work in a public library in Florida.

If you are interested in taking part in this study, please use this link to complete a short survey (should take less than five minutes): [https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0CUdAnIsR7U12FU](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CUdAnIsR7U12FU). If you are chosen to participate, you will be contacted by a member of the research team. Thank you!

## E-Government & Job Resources



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



Career and job resources from the Florida Electronic Library.



Florida Library Jobs is a listing of job openings for library and information science-related positions in Florida.



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.

During FY2021-22, the percentage of total costs for the Community Engagement and Resources Program financed with federal money is 66%; the federal dollar amount to be spent on the program is \$73,494.

This program does not receive any non-governmental funding.

