



1) 'Staff Empowerment' Webinar Series Now Open

More than ever, library staff need access to tools and resources to feel empowered at work. Wisconsin Valley Library Service, Northern Waters Library Service, and the Southwest Wisconsin Library System are excited to announce a Fall Webinar Series focusing on Staff Empowerment.

The webinars occur on three consecutive Wednesdays (September 22 and 29, October 6). They will be recorded and are worth 1 contact hour for library certification.

- Compassion Resilience and Anxiety Management During Tough Times - Sept. 22
- Hiring in 2021 and Beyond - Sept. 29
- Best Practices in Volunteer Management - Oct. 6

[Read more and to register.](#)

2) Feedback on LSTA Five-Year Plan

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in partnership with WiLS, is conducting a survey evaluating the current Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan. Feedback is needed.

The [linked survey](#) is designed to collect feedback from individuals throughout the Wisconsin library landscape who have been involved in and/or impacted by the Library Services and Technology Act as a funding entity. LSTA funds are distributed by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to US states and territories. In Wisconsin, LSTA funds are managed by the DPI and distributions are guided through the development of an IMLS-required [Five Year Plan](#). As part of the process, each Plan must be independently evaluated. The current Five-Year Plan covers 2018-2022 and is currently under evaluation in anticipation of the development of the next Five-Year Plan.

For any questions about this survey or the evaluation, feel free to reach out to Kim Kiesewetter, Data Analyst with WiLS, kim@wils.org.

3) Overdrive App to End in February

OverDrive announced last week that they will be sunsetting the OverDrive app in February 2022. What does this mean?

- Current OverDrive app users can continue to use the app.
- New users looking for the OverDrive app will be directed to Libby.

- All users can continue to use, borrow, and open titles from your library's OverDrive website via a browser.

WPLC will be actively encouraging OverDrive app users to switch to Libby. WPLC recommends that all partners actively promote Libby and remove references to the OverDrive app from library websites and promotional materials. Please bookmark [this page](#) on the Resource Center, as it provides an overview of the app sunset plan, FAQs, Libby promotional materials, recommended best practices, and more. WPLC recommends using this resource to start updating your library's website links, digital resource pages, and marketing materials to solely point readers to Libby.

4) This Week's Webinars

- [Workplace Mental Health: Is your Nonprofit Ready for Post-COVID Challenges?](#) - 12 p.m. on Thursday, Aug 19
- [8 Tools To Mitigate Implicit Bias](#) - 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug 19
- [Resilience: This Moment And Beyond](#) - 12 p.m. on Friday, Aug 20
- [Establishing a Telehealth Center in Your Library](#) - 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug 20

5) Federal Unemployment Programs End September 4

The Federal Unemployment programs giving states flexibility to provide unemployment insurance for workers impacted by COVID-19 will end September 4, 2021.

The programs include Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC).

Individuals with claims pending for weeks prior to September 5, 2021 will be paid for each week they are found eligible. If libraries see an increase in community members seeking help filing, direct them to [Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development Unemployment Insurance website](#).

6) Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access Report Issued

DPI is very pleased to share that the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access Report has been issued. The report details Task Force goals and recommendations for successfully expanding high speed internet access to every residence, business, and institution in the state by 2025, including solutions to make internet service affordable.

DPI and the Library Services Team has been, and will remain, deeply engaged in addressing broadband and the digital equity gap until it is solved once and for all. A special thank you to Assistant State Superintendent, Kurt Kiefer, for his leadership as a member of the Task Force and for leading the sub group on data. [Read more](#).