

# NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

November 17, 2025

## State Library Updates

### Introducing Money Smart for Life!

Join the New Jersey State Library to promote financial literacy information and resources for all ages during Financial Literacy Month in April 2026! Money Smart for Life is NJSL's statewide initiative to showcase how libraries support financial education and wellbeing in their communities.

Coming Soon!

- Resources: Discover financial literacy websites and tools in one place!
- Professional Development: Attend webinars on financial literacy topics!
- Statewide Reach: Host financial literacy programs at your library!

Stay updated through the NJSL website: [www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart](http://www.njstatelib.org/moneysmart)

If you have questions, contact Andrea Levandowski ([alevandowski@njstatelib.org](mailto:alevandowski@njstatelib.org)) or Sharon Rawlins ([srawlins@njstatelib.org](mailto:srawlins@njstatelib.org)).

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### Join the Community of Practice (CoP) to Discuss Teaching Information Literacy in New Jersey

Anyone who works with youth in school, public, or academic libraries is invited to register to join the NJ State Library-sponsored monthly virtual Community of Practice (CoP) meetups. These sessions offer an opportunity to connect with colleagues, share ideas, and explore strategies to strengthen information literacy programming for youth. The [CoP meetups](#) will be held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning **December 9th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** via Microsoft Teams.

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### Research Ready: Resources for Supporting Teens

## - Two Sessions Left

The NJ State Library is sponsoring a five-part series of one-hour virtual sessions to equip librarians with the essential tools and strategies to support teens' skills in conducting academic research. Register for the last two sessions below.

- [Researching with Open Data & Government Sources](#) - **November 18th (tomorrow) at 11:00 a.m.**
  - [Researching with AI Tools](#) - **December 2nd at 11:00 a.m.**
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## English Language Learners in New Jersey Libraries

The State Library is compiling information to better understand how New Jersey Public Libraries provide English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and support. [Please fill out this brief survey](#) by **November 28th**, regardless of whether your library offers ESL programs or classes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Michael Maziekien ([mmaziekien@njstatelib.org](mailto:mmaziekien@njstatelib.org)) or Andrea Levandowski ([alevandowski@njstatelib.org](mailto:alevandowski@njstatelib.org)).

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## Teaching Information Literacy Webinar Series

Register now for the final session of the five-part *Pillars of Information Literacy in New Jersey* webinar series.

**Session 5: [AI](#) - Dec. 2nd, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

If you missed any of the first four sessions, the recordings are available on [the NJSL website](#).

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## News From Around the State

### Apply for New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Prime Time Family Reading Program

The application deadline for New Jersey libraries interested in serving as 2026 host sites for the New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Prime Time Family Reading program is **November 20, 2025**.

Prime Time Family Reading is a national program serving kids and their families. Participating families build early literacy skills, engage in critical thinking, and connect with each other through literature and discussion. Participating libraries receive \$6,500 in funding from NJCH and training through the national network to

implement this program in their community.

Full information and the application can be found at <https://njhumanities.org/programs/prime-time-reading/>.

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## Apply Now for EDI-NJ Institutional Assessment Pilot Project

EDI-NJ is excited to launch the EDI-NJ Institutional Assessment Pilot Program, a statewide initiative helping New Jersey libraries deepen their equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices through structured assessment, reflection, and action. Ten libraries across New Jersey will be invited to participate free of cost in a collaborative pilot designed to test, refine, and apply the EDI-NJ Institutional Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Assessment Tool.

**IMPORTANT:** Please review the project details and timeline outlined on [the project information page](#) before completing the [application form](#).

Applications submitted by the **Priority Review Deadline (November 20, 2025)** will receive early review, and selected libraries will be notified between November 21 and 24, 2025. Questions? Contact [edi@librarylinknj.org](mailto:edi@librarylinknj.org).

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## New Fact Sheets for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan (CHNV) Parolees in New Jersey

The Office of New Americans (ONA) has created new materials for community wide awareness and distribution. Below please find a new fact sheet, Information for the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) Parolees in New Jersey, available in English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish.

- [English Fact Sheet](#)
- [Haitian Creole Fact Sheet](#)
- [Spanish Fact Sheet](#)

The ONA website features new Know Your Rights resources, including multilingual Posters and Graphics. You can download the posters to print or post the graphics on your social media. Please visit the ONA website at [NewAmericans.nj.gov](http://NewAmericans.nj.gov) as updates become available.

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## NJSL Presents Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and [all webinars are recorded and posted to our YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also [check out event recaps on our blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up in November, feel free to

share within your communities.

- [Resume Writing 101](#) - November 18th @ noon
  - [Let's Talk Diabetes: Prediabetes, Type 1, and Type 2 Explained-](#) November 20th @ noon
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## Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and [a list of training programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

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## Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, [check out our Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [The Secret to Social Media Hooks](#)
- [Refresh Your Library's Approach to Email Marketing](#)
- [How to Create Better Hyperlinks for Accessibility](#)
- [Spotify Playlists for Library Programs](#)
- [Learn More About the New Instagram Edits App](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can [download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners](#).



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