

1. Overview of *Ready to Read at New York Libraries*

Ready to Read at New York Libraries: an Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program is an exciting new statewide initiative. The State Library will partner with the State's 23 public library systems and others to train library staff from 1,000 library outlets using a train-the-trainer model. This project will enable New York's public libraries to improve the quality of early learning services by increasing library staff capacity to provide families and caregivers with the knowledge they need to prepare young children for the school years ahead in a cost-effective and sustainable way. **The New York State Library will apply for a 2015 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant to support this project through 2018. Training and plan development has begun with the award, in April 2014, of a one-year 2014 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Planning Grant.**

Following are the key elements of this statewide staff development program:

- **Implementation of a comprehensive library staff development program with a core curriculum, delivered by a Training Cohort trained by expert trainers using high-quality content, resources and materials.** A program with five Foundation Training Components has been designed so that a Training Cohort of 30 librarians will have the skills and expertise to train library staff.

Foundation Training Components:

1. Early Literacy Community Asset Analysis;
 2. Using 'Every Child Ready to Read®' (2nd ed.) (ECRR2);
 3. Early Learning Spaces;
 4. Strategies for Successful Partnerships and Outreach to Families with Young Children;
 5. Everyone Serves Families with Young Children
- **Additional training opportunities in reading readiness, developing partnerships, and STEM** will augment and enhance the information in the Foundation Training for the Training Cohort and library staff if funding is available.
 - **Collaborative and lasting local, statewide and national partnerships.** During 2014, the Advisory Group began to develop formal partnerships with state and national agencies and organizations whose goals align with those of *Ready to Read at New York Libraries*. These partnerships include Reach Out and Read, Head Start, NYS public broadcasting stations, 4-H, New York Library Association, and Collaborative Summer Library Program. The Advisory Group will continue assisting the State Library in growing these partnerships and engaging new partners in various fields to expand the program.

Ready to Read at New York Libraries is designed to transform the lives of young New Yorkers through a quality public library staff development program that will provide parents/caregivers and young children with the skills and knowledge needed for success. The award of a 2015 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant can result in a sustainable program providing all public library staff with access to the training and materials needed to make the library a vital center for early learning and a key community partner. Project results will also be replicated and shared with libraries across the nation.