

Libraries and Health Literacy

Libraries can play an important role in helping citizens manage their own and their family's well-being, and empower them to be effective partners with their healthcare providers so they can live longer, more productive lives.

Health Literacy in Action

One library in Blair County joined forces with the local hospital to offer the *Family Health and Safety Fair*. Held at the library, 32 agencies and physicians provided free health screenings and invaluable information to help community members live healthier and safer lives.

In Lancaster County, the library system teamed up with the county hospitals and local United Way to create the *Health Information Access Project*. The project was designed to provide reliable health information to county residents in a variety of forms, including an online Web portal for reliable health information; special programming provided by the hospitals; additional resource books on consumer health/wellness at the public libraries and hospital health libraries; and printed information in the form of flyers and brochures that are distributed throughout the county at public libraries, hospitals, and other designated locations. Grant money and corporate partners helped fund this important project.

Additional examples can be found on the PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries website, www.paforward.org.

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