

# The Benefits of Wisconsin Public Libraries

### Communities Need

- Reliable, affordable resources
  Access to information
  Learning opportunities
- Gathering spaces

#### Libraries Offer

- Cost-effective sources for books, digital resources, and technology access
- Free and reliable access to the Internet and published materials
- Resources, programs, and expertise to increase individual, business, and community knowledge
- Places for gathering to learn and connect

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## Literacy

- Offering early literacy programs such as 1000 Books Before Kindergarten to help ensure children are ready for school
- Participating in partnerships with schools to help improve student literacy through summer reading programs, teaching research skills, and helping develop information and financial literacy
- Providing important resources for homeschool families



## Workforce Development

- Partnering with the state's Workforce Development Centers to extend resources and services to job seekers in communities throughout Wisconsin
- Offering online classes and other learning opportunities designed to increase skills of people seeking employment opportunities or other career advancements
- Providing meeting spaces to conduct interviews both inperson and via technology



## Information Technology

- Providing technology training to residents who need assistance
- Offering reliable, hi-speed internet access and wi-fi hotspots to ensure residents have reliable broadband access
- Offering spaces for innovation centers and creative learning labs designed to maximize in-person learning opportunities using technology not readily accessible to individual residents
- For most Wisconsin communities, the public library is the primary place for public access to hi-speed Internet.