**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**RE:** Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Initiatives

**DATE:** January 4, 2019

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Information

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

N/A

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**

N/A

**DIGITALLEARN**

*Submitted by Leighann Wood, Program Manager*

In 2018, DigitalLearn saw the addition of two new courses: Applying for Jobs Online and Online Health Information. Online Health Information is also being promoted in our Libraries Connecting You to Coverage initiative along with other health literacy and insurance enrollment resources to be used in libraries’ communication and outreach efforts. There were over 64,000 new users to DigitalLearn this year. Our most popular courses are: 1) Getting Started on a Computer; 2) Intro to Email 1; 3) What is a Computer? and 4) Navigating a Website. All courses were captioned this year and nearly all English courses went through revisions and updates. In 2019, PLA will be working toward increasing the number of subsites, expanding promotion to new markets (schools, refugees, international library associations), translating into additional languages, developing two new courses, and developing a more robust training curriculum for library staff to be better suited to teaching digital literacy to their patrons.

**EDI REGIONAL TRAININGS**

*Submitted by Scott Allen, Deputy Director*

The PLA Task Force on EDI developed and began promoting three regional training events, to be held February 25-26, 2019 (Denver, CO), August 12-13, 2019 (Charleston, SC) and October 28-29, 2019 (Chicago, IL). During this one-and-a-half day symposium, attendees will explore how power and privilege operate interpersonally and institutionally; identify how oppression shows up in our communities and libraries; and learn about historical and contemporary social justice movements. Participants will hear from libraries putting equity into practice, develop regional connections, and create local action plans to advance equity and social justice in our organizations and communities. Mia Henry of the Arcus Center for Social Justice will be the primary presenter on day one, with Task Force members leading presentations and discussion during the second day. Attendance is limited to 100 at each event.

**INCLUSIVE INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE**

*Submitted by Mary Hirsh, Deputy Director*

IMLS has extended a third round of funding to support III in 2019. IMLS will prove $313,606 against PLA’s $332,228 cost share. Libraries have until [February 1 to apply](http://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/plinterns/2019application). PLA has fuding to support 50 interns. Priority will be give to libraries that have not participated in the past. The 2019 cohort group will officillay kick off June 14-16 at a Master Class event in Chicago.

**INSURANCE ENROLLMENT**

*Submitted by Leighann Wood, Program Manager*

PLA supported public libraries’ work as part of a national partnership made possible by funding from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT04MTk1MzE4JnA9MSZ1PTExMTE0MzQ0ODEmbGk9NjE1MDQ2OTk/index.html) and [Community Catalyst](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT04MTk1MzE4JnA9MSZ1PTExMTE0MzQ0ODEmbGk9NjE1MDQ3MDA/index.html) to help people sign up for health insurance during the six-week open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).  PLA’s [Promoting Healthy Communities: Libraries Connecting You to Coverage](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT04MTk1MzE4JnA9MSZ1PTExMTE0MzQ0ODEmbGk9NjE1MDQ3MDE/index.html) awarded mini-grants of $300 to 67 public libraries in 33 states across the country to help fund advertising, promotion, outreach and educational activities to help people sign up for coverage during November 1 through December 15, 2018. Grant recipients disseminated information, offered education, partnered with health insurance enrollment and provider groups, and encouraged community members to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. Some highlights of November’s activities showed that the Georgetown County (S.C.) Library System brought its outreach efforts to local schools and hosted two Open Enrollment Fairs at its Andrews Branch. In total, there were 132 library-hosted events related to health insurance enrollment in November. Many grantees reported that they would not normally promote this initiative had it not been for the turn-key communications assets and resources and funds PLA provided. As of December 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reported that almost 8.5 million people in the 39 HealthCare.gov-participating states enrolled in coverage during the six-week open enrollment period. The 4% drop from 2017 was much smaller than anticipated, despite the shortened Open Enrollment period (45 days this year), a 90% decrease to the ACA advertising budget this year and a 84% decrease in Navigator and outreach funding the past two years. PLA will continue to promote the excellent resources public libraries can share with new enrollees about using their health care coverage (answers to [Common Coverage Questions](https://www.healthcare.gov/using-marketplace-coverage/common-questions/), a [Health Insurance Explained](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT04MTk1MzE4JnA9MSZ1PTExMTE0MzQ0ODEmbGk9NjE1MDQ3MDM/index.html) video (also available in Spanish) and also a [Health Literacy Quiz](http://ala.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT04MTk1MzE4JnA9MSZ1PTExMTE0MzQ0ODEmbGk9NjE1MDQ3MDQ/index.html), to name a few).

**PLA STRATEGIC GOAL LINK (check all that apply)**

TRANSFORMATION  LEADERSHIP  ADV. & AWARENESS  E.D.I.S.J.  ORG. EXCELLENCE