

Building Connections to Local Services

If local social services recognize the services a library offers, then both groups can do their jobs better. Here are some ways to help social service agencies understand what the library has to offer.

- Be a PLACE. Invite them for a tour to show the educational space—computer lab, children’s programming room, meeting rooms, etc. See if they want to coordinate with you for hosting literacy or ESL tutoring.
- Help them understand the librarians as researchers. Librarians can get them facts for grants, find places to apply for grants, help them find best practices in their field, and examples of other agencies doing the same kind of things they’d like to work on.
- Use the library as a central hub among multiple agencies. Consider being the host for an annual agency information swap, or hosting a social service information fair for the public in library parking lot. You may be able to find other community groups to sponsor such events so that you can offer food and drinks. Make it a community event—invite a school band, or a local dance team. The library can also host cross-agency grant meetings, or do staff training for agencies’ information experts/grant writers.