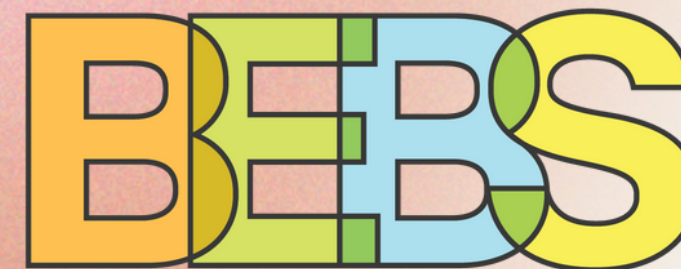


BUILDING EQUITY- BASED SUMMMERS INFORMATION SESSION

Cohort 2

September 6, 2023



BUILDING - EQUITY - BASED - SUMMERS



TODAY'S SESSION

- Introduction to BEBS
- Participation in BEBS
- Year One Overview
- Year Two Overview
- Questions & Contact Info

What is BEBS?

Building Equity-Based Summers (BEBS) empowers libraries to create summer services that are built on a foundation of equity, designed with the community to ensure systemically-marginalized groups engage with library services in new ways.

BEBS HISTORY & FUTURE

BEBS launched in 2020 when 14 libraries from across California came together to better understand and incorporate equitable practices into summer services for youth, families, and communities.

Through funding from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, California's work was expanded to six pilot states: CT, ID, MD, OH, RI, and WA. During the 2022-23 pilot year 33 libraries and 85 staff members worked on equity-based summers knowledge and skills.

The BEBS project has onboarded MA, MT, NJ, OR, and PA for year two of the project and will add 5 more states in year three. After year three a total of 17 states will have worked with a minimum of 80 libraries across the country in summer equity work.

THIS IS BEBS



Why equity?

Working towards equity honors diversity and creates space for inclusion in all library services.

What makes BEBS different?

A focus on systems and structures, not programs

Strengths-based

Recognition that each community and neighborhood is different - no one size fits all
in summer equity work

Benefits of Participating

Participants will benefit by:

- Being part of a national initiative impacting summer services nationwide.
- Learning and developing new ideas, resources, and tools with a network of library staff throughout the country.
- Tackling equity with the support of a cohort representing a diversity of libraries and communities.
- Testing and assessing new tools and resources as early as summer 2024.
- A \$500 stipend to support summer equity work.

Learning Sessions

Building Equity-Based Summers' learning sessions focus on what matters in equity: changing mindsets inside the library, involving community in crafting summer programs and recruiting a greater diversity of program partners and participants.

Sessions will cover topics such as:

- Why equity is important to summer library services and communities
- How to assess current summer services with an equity mindset
- How to begin to build equity-based summer services
- Ways to bring community voices into the design and decision making of equity-based summer services
- How to have conversations with community partners, stakeholders, and members about equity and equity-based summer services.

Session Agenda

Sessions 1-2: The “Why” of Summer Services and the “Why” of Equity in Summer Services

Session 3-4: Letting Go of Tradition

Session 5-6: Connecting With Community Voices

Session 7-8: Summer Service Impact: What Does Success Look Like?

YEAR ONE OVERVIEW

Fall 2022:

- Four Co-design sessions with pilot states
- Design, customization, and iteration of facilitation materials
- Recruitment and selection of library staff to participate in BEBS sessions

Winter/Spring 2023:

- Facilitation of four BEBS sessions with selected library staff
- Monthly community of practice with pilot states
- Ongoing reflection
- Launch of BEBS Workbook

INSIGHTS FROM YEAR ONE

BEBS session reflections:

- Across all seven states, there was close to unanimous agreement that participants felt their voices were heard and recognized in sessions (98%) and 83% found the sessions engaging and interesting.

BEBS session impact self-report:

- Close to everyone (93%) felt they learned something from the sessions and 90% intend to apply what they learned. Nearly all (92%) agreed that applying what they learned will help to improve library services to the public and 91% believed that doing so would help effect positive change in the community.
- Over half of responses (55%) reported a change in their summer “why,” with most talking about moving away from summer slide, moving out from a concentration on the physical library space, and moving toward prioritizing relationships and communities that have been systemically marginalized.

Impact and frequency of BEBS activities:

- Those who more frequently facilitated equity conversations, including those about race, at their organization and in their community (at least a few times a month) were in stronger agreement that they *planned to apply what they learned* and that *applying what they learned will help effect positive changes in the community*.
- Those who more frequently facilitated questioned current ways of planning summer services and common conceptions about goals and benefits (at least weekly) were in stronger agreement that they *planned to apply what they learned* and that *applying what they learned will help effect positive changes in the community*.

YEAR TWO OVERVIEW

Additional states and public libraries will join BEBS to:

- Recruit and select libraries to participate in fall BEBS sessions
- Participate in BEBS learning and discussion sessions starting September 2023
- Be a partner in evaluation by providing feedback and insights through conversations and surveys
- Join the national BEBS Community of Practice at the end of the learning series

ADVICE FROM COHORT 1

- *Come with an open mind ready to think outside the box and reimagine your current summer learning program.*
- *Don't expect any large ah-ha moments in the first four sessions. It's just the beginning of the conversation.*
- *Be prepared to embrace change - even if in small increments. Take time to reflect on the readings and try not to be/feel defensive about protecting long-held customs and traditions.*
- *Be ready to really question everything you think you know. Start thinking now about what connections you have to marginalized communities in your area.*
- *Dedicate time each week to do the activities. They're worth it, but if you don't do it in chunks and have to do it all at once before the next session, it gets super heavy. Even 20 minutes a day would help!*
- *You don't work in a vacuum! Invite folks who make decisions in your organization to your "homework" conversations so you can get started having conversations about change early.*
- *Start thinking now about what connections you have to marginalized communities in your area.*

QUESTIONS?

Danielle Margarida
RI Office of Library and Information Services
danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov

LEARN MORE

<https://olis.ri.gov/programs-and-support/reading-programs/building-equity-based-summers>

APPLY

https://olis-ri.libwizard.com/f/bebsapp_cohort2