

Ypsilanti District Library – Contract #56511

Quarterly Report: January-March 2025

Library Social Worker Program

Number of patrons served, and services provided (e.g., referrals, resources, etc.)

For the first quarter, library social work interns at the Superior branch saw 1 patron 3 times. Social work student interns had a limited drop-in schedule and focused their final semester on continuing to establish a community presence and creating a resource binder. For the one patron that interns served, they assisted this individual with navigating housing, food insecurity, unemployment, and Medicaid/SNAP.

This quarter, the Michigan Ave branch was closed for renovations, and the hiring process for the full-time library social worker was occurring. Lisa Hoenig, the library director, Julianne Smith, the assistant director, and Margaret Ann Paauw, the evaluator, created a job description and job posting. Once applications were received we reviewed them, and three top candidates were identified and interviewed. LMSW Kat Layton officially accepted the position on Friday, March 14th, and will start at the beginning of next quarter.

Survey results re: access and support

The evaluation will be developed and implemented over the summer.

Number of interns placed

2 interns were placed this quarter.

Evaluation of impact through patron feedback and intern self-assessments

The evaluation that will be developed over the summer will include patron feedback.

For self-assessment for the library social work interns, please see the examples from final semester self-evaluations below:

- “I engaged in applying research findings by creating the resource guide which will be utilized at all three branches including the Superior Branch, Whittaker, and Michigan Ave. This resource guide will help clients and other community members get connected to organizations and needed resources. This resource guide all also be beneficial to all library staff including the new full time licensed social worker in learning more about potential available resources and organizations in our community. I also used research methods when developing and implementing the current new program the second semester.”
- “I engaged with library staff members using empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills as they discussed patron concerns with me. This includes considering and incorporating culturally responsive practice in relation to their interaction with both myself and their interactions with patrons.”

- “Over the course of the semester I have learned a great deal and have a much deeper understanding of the relationship of how BSW Interns in a library setting operates and what is involved in creating infrastructure for a new program. I feel the evaluation process definitely reflects this. The opportunity of being able to be at the Superior Branch for the entire semester allowed me to deepen relationships with library staff members and understand more about what roles they play in patrons lives in all the interactions and experiences that occur in the library.”
- “This semester was the culmination of the first semester of planning and establishing the YDL/EMU partnership program. We received grant funding to establish a program to distribute food and hygiene items to in-need library patrons and continued to provide support to library staff as well as individual patrons we began to meet with. I helped highlight the value of social work students in the library in a material way and am proud to have helped pave the way for future EMU students!”

Number of partnerships formed

The library social work student interns met with Alice, a community connector who assisted in facilitating referrals. They worked closely with this person to assist the needs of the patron they provided case management to. They also developed a relationship with MI Access, a local organization that assists youth with literacy issues and educational accessibility.

Number of events hosted and patrons in attendance

The library social work student interns did not host any events for patrons this quarter, but did deliver a series of presentations:

- Four presentation sessions to library staff at the Whittaker branch, one at the Michigan Ave branch, and one at the Superior branch, on the details of the Library SW Intern program
- One presentation to the Senior Advisory Board at the Whittaker branch on the impact of Downtown Ypsilanti missing its library and its impact on the unhoused population in this area

Submitted 4/22/2025
Lisa Hoenig, Director