



# Social Worker in the Library

## *Statement of Need*

### A 21st Century Library

Baltimore County Public Library serves 9 million annually through our website and in branches. The role of the public library is evolving as an educational resource and a community connector. In addition to providing books, we offer employment assistance, legal advice, free tax preparation, STEM programs for kids, art classes, yoga and everything in between.

### Social Worker in the Library

Part of our mission is to be a connector to a myriad of services and resources to ensure quality of life and serve as a social safety net. Like many large urban and suburban public library systems who have recently added a Social Worker in the Library program, we have recognized a great need for this service. Successfully offering aid to those experiencing mental health issues, substance abuse, chronic health problems or homelessness can best be accomplished by hiring a full-time social worker with an understanding of these specific challenges and with firsthand knowledge of the resources available to connect individuals to. The social worker will:

- Partner with organizations and agencies that provide social and human services to present public programs and support for one-on-one appointments with customers.
- Provide training for library staff so they can assist in these efforts.
- Create resource guides to give to customers and to post on our website.

### Three-Year Pilot Program

The Social Worker in the Library program is designed as a three-year pilot project, with the goal of funding in perpetuity through county funding, grants or a combination of both. In the first year, one full-time social worker will be based in our North Point Branch.

In year two, we will add one social worker in a branch on the west side of the county. In year three, a final social worker will be added in the central part of the county. Placing the social workers regionally will allow us to reach the maximum number of customers as the social workers serve neighboring branches.

### Funding

We have received a generous \$300,000 grant from the Osprey Foundation of Towson. The funding will pay for all year one expenses, including the social worker's salary and benefits, and the construction of a private work and meeting space for the social worker and customers. Funding will pay for a portion of expenses in years two and three.

### How to Participate

While the grant from the Osprey Foundation will fully fund the first year of this program, **we are looking for partners to help us meet our additional \$300,000 goal in order to fund years two and three. Make a positive difference. Meet a great need in our community. Fund the Social Worker in the Library today.** For questions or for more information, contact Julie Saxenmeyer at Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library | [jsaxenmeyer@bcpl.net](mailto:jsaxenmeyer@bcpl.net).

**GOAL \$600,000**



### Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library

Created in 1998, Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library provides additional resources to enrich the library's commitment to empower the citizens of Baltimore County to explore, learn, create and connect by motivating residents of Baltimore County, regardless of age or economic circumstance, to embrace lifelong learning. A nonprofit 501c3, the Foundation's support of the library is made possible by contributions by individuals, businesses and other foundations.