Illinois Public Library Standards: Programming

Programming is one of the channels through which libraries fulfill their mission of bringing people together for educational, recreational, and civic or community purposes. Literacy initiatives such as storytimes and book discussions encourage a love of reading and provide an opportunity to highlight library collections. Lifelong learning programs empower patrons with new information and improved skills that support their academic and vocational advancement, as well as their personal growth. Cultural programs promote appreciation of the arts and introduce participants to a variety of world traditions. Arts and crafts and do-it-yourself workshops foster creativity and ingenuity. Recreational programs combat social isolation and encourage interaction with others in the community. Programming can also serve as outreach to the community and promotion of the library's services by offering a wide variety of events that appeal to both regular and new uses. Programs may be in-person, virtual, or hybrid; they may include traditional presenter-led events as well as opportunities for self-directed activities by patrons. Programming must strive to welcome people of all ages, abilities, identities, and backgrounds.

STANDARD	CORE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
1	The library provides programs for all ages free of charge or on a cost recovery basis.	The library provides virtual or hybrid programs where appropriate.	
2	The library follows all local, state, and federal accessibility requirements in the presentation of in-person and virtual programs.	The library strives to provide various modes of program participation to accommodate patrons of all abilities (e.g., low lighting, enhanced audio).	The library designs dedicated programs for patrons with specific needs (e.g., autism, dementia, low vision).
3	The library has a board-approved programming policy for all ages that includes a protocol for response to challenges.		

4	The library regularly assesses the needs of its community, either formally or informally, to inform its program planning.	The library partners with local educational, social, cultural, and recreational organizations in order to present programs that address the community's needs.	The library draws on its community partnerships to provide programs in alternate venues in order to reach specific populations who cannot visit the library.
5	The library evaluates programs based on criteria such as attendance, guest feedback, and participant outcomes and adjusts its future programs based on this evaluation.		
6	The library is aware of the diversity of its community and strives to offer programs that are inclusive. While library programs represent diverse viewpoints, library programs do not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the ideas or viewpoints expressed in their programs.	The library provides staff training in best practices for meeting the programming needs of a diverse community.	The library offers dedicated programs that address the specific cultures, life experiences and interests of its community.