


Application

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DigitalPathways

 Collaborate 0

Process: PPO UHC Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults Grant

Contact Info

Request

Documents 0

Applicant:

John Ambrose Harold


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281-633-4744

1003 Golfview Drive

Richmond, TX 77469 USA

Organization:

Fort Bend County Libraries 

281-633-4744

1003 Golfview Drive


Richmond, TX 77469 USA



Contact Email History




 Application

 Application Packet

 Question List



 Due by 01/07/2026 11:59 PM CST.

 Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

∨ I. Instructions

Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) developed in collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, which provides pilot libraries with a resource package to support online health literacy programming.

Prior to beginning your library's application, please read the complete [Grant Guidelines](#) and [FAQs](#).

Project Name*

To begin, please answer the question below "Project Name" by typing the following fifteen-letter

response text box: DigitalPathways

Below, type **DigitalPathways**

DigitalPathways

∨ **II. Project Director Information**

Note: The project director is the person who will be responsible for coordinating all elements of the Digital Pathways grant on behalf of the library. All fields are required unless noted otherwise

Project Director First Name*

Celeste

Project Director Last Name*

Bleu

Project Director Pronouns

She

Project Director E-mail*



Celeste.Bleu@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Project Director Phone Number*

(10 digits, xxx-xxx-xxxx)

281-633-4726

Extension

#

Project Director Title*

Manager

Department

Outreach, Partnerships and Programming

✓ III. The Library

Please answer the following questions about your library.

Institution Name*

Fort Bend County Libraries

Number of Branches in Your Library System (if applicable)

12

Library Branch Name (if applicable)

Address 1*

1003 Golfview Drive

Address 2

City*

Richmond

State/Territory*

Find your state/territory abbreviation.

Zip Code*

9 digits, xxxxx-xxxx. To find your 4-digit sort code, visit the [U.S. Postal Service Look Up a Zip Code webpage](#).

U.S. Congressional District (e.g., IL-07)*

4 digits, xx-xx. To find your congressional district, visit the [U.S. Census My Congressional District webpage](#).

Library Type*

Library Website URL (if applicable)

Community Type*

Select the option that, in your opinion, best describes your community. Note that these are not precise definitions; we simply want a sense of your community.

Population Size of Your Community*

Select the population size for the municipality (city/town) that your library is located in.

How did you learn about this opportunity?*

If you selected "Other" please specify below.

✓ IV. Proposal Narrative

Before you compose the narrative part of this application, we strongly recommend that you read the [grant guidelines](#) carefully. All sections below are required. Please ensure that you fully answer all the questions listed above each narrative field. If you do not, your application is unlikely to be competitive.

This section contains four required narrative questions. Please note the character limit (including spaces and punctuation) for your response to each question. Please respond to all elements of each question

Community and Library Information*

Describe your library and the community it serves, including your community's current demographics, internet connectivity, and digital literacy. Do library patrons have internet access at home? Are they able to access health or other important, trustworthy information online from home?

Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) serve a rapidly growing, exceptionally diverse population. More than book lenders, they function as essential community infrastructure for digital equity—offering free internet access, technology training, and culturally responsive programming that supports learning, civic engagement, and workforce development. While the system faces challenges like cybersecurity risks and rapid growth, recent expansions and investments demonstrate strong commitment to meeting evolving community needs.

Communities & Demographics

Fort Bend County has about 958,000 residents (2024), up from roughly 823,000 in 2020. Among the most ethnically and racially diverse counties in the nation, it is approximately 30% White or non-Hispanic, 21% Black or African American, 22% Asian, and 26% Hispanic or Latino. With a median age of 36.7, demand for youth, family, and workforce services remains high. The median household income is about \$96,468, and over 46% of adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher, driving need for robust library services that support academic success, cultural engagement, and digital readiness.

Library Infrastructure & Services

FBCL operates a countywide network of branches, including George Memorial in Richmond, First Colony, University Branch, Sugar Land, Mission Bend in Houston, Missouri City, Sienna in Missouri City, and Fulshear, plus smaller branches in Needville and Stafford. All offer free public Wi-Fi, computers, digital resources, and programming for youth, adults, families, and

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Health Literacy Access*

Briefly describe your library's existing capacity to meet the health literacy needs of patrons, including

partnerships, services, and programming. How do patrons currently access health services out of your library? How did you learn about your community's needs for health literacy programming?

Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) have a strong foundation for supporting community health literacy and already provide multiple access points—physical, digital, and programmatic—for patrons seeking reliable, understandable health information. As a large, diverse, rapidly growing county system, FBCL has developed services, partnerships, and practices that position the library as a trusted, accessible hub for health knowledge and resource navigation.

Existing Capacity: Services, Resources, and Programming

FBCL offers extensive information resources to meet patrons' health literacy needs. All branches provide free public computers, Wi-Fi, and access to high-quality health databases such as MedlinePlus, Consumer Health Complete, and other evidence-based digital collections. Librarians assist patrons daily with locating reputable health information, understanding medical terminology, and accessing online patient portals, insurance applications, and local health services. Many branches promote materials in multiple languages—particularly Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese—reflecting county demographics.

Programming is another key component of the library's capacity. FBCL regularly hosts workshops focused on wellness, aging, obesity, nutrition – healthy life choices, stress management, exercise, chronic disease awareness, and mental health. These include sessions delivered by county agencies, health educators, university partners, and nonprofits. Children's and youth librarians incorporate health themes into story times and STEAM programs, including nutrition-focused crafts, healthy-habits story sessions, and movement-based activities. Staff also support patrons seeking information on Medicaid redetermination, the Affordable Care Act marketplace, clinics, immunization schedules, and public health announcements.

Existing Partnerships

FBCL collaborates with a variety of partners to extend health literacy support. Partnerships have included:

- Fort Bend County Health & Human Services—providing workshops on vaccines, public health alerts, safety topics, and general wellness.
- Local hospitals and medical providers, including Houston Methodist and local clinics—supporting screenings, blood pressure checks, and health-education sessions.
- Community nonprofits—including senior-services organizations, mental health advocates, and disability-support groups—offering expertise in chronic disease management, dementia awareness, mental wellness, and adaptive resources.
- ESL and adult education providers—delivering health-related vocabulary instruction, system navigation, and medical form understanding.

These collaborations deepen library capacity and allow FBCL to reach residents with lower health literacy, including recent immigrants, seniors, and those with limited digital skills.

How Patrons Access Health Services Through the Library:

While FBCL does not provide clinical care, it plays a vital navigational role. Patrons use library computers, Hotspots, and Wi-Fi to:

- Access telehealth appointments.

Rationale*

Describe how increased access to resources and health literacy programming through the library would benefit adults and specific audiences in your community.

Increasing access to health literacy resources and programming through Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) would directly support the well-being, confidence, and decision-making abilities of adults across one of the most diverse and rapidly growing counties in Texas. Many residents face barriers to understanding health information, navigating the health system, or accessing reliable digital resources. Expanding the library's capacity would strengthen community health across all demographic groups, particularly those with limited English proficiency, low digital skills, or limited access to affordable healthcare.

FBCL serves a population characterized by significant cultural and linguistic diversity, a large immigrant community, and wide variation in health knowledge. Health information is often complex, and many adults report confusion about insurance forms, chronic disease management, mental health resources, and local care options. Through expanded workshops, multilingual materials, and partnerships with health agencies, the library can make health information clearer, more relevant, and easier to act upon.

Adults who lack consistent access to technology or broadband—especially rural residents, seniors, and lower-income households—benefit greatly from the library's free Wi-Fi, computers, and staff assistance. Strengthening health literacy programming would enable these patrons to participate more fully in telehealth visits, navigate patient portals, research treatment options, or locate local clinics and services. Increased digital navigation support also ensures that residents can access time-sensitive information, such as vaccination updates, public health

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Project Plan*

Please describe how you plan to implement the project. How will you publicize and promote the required programs? How will you meet patrons' digital literacy needs? A general description of how you envision it, with relevant examples of previous programming, is fine.

FBCL will use ALA's Health Literacy grant to implement a coordinated, countywide initiative that expands access to reliable health information and connects residents with trusted community partners. The project will combine programming, digital literacy support, and targeted outreach so adults across Fort Bend County—especially vulnerable or underserved groups—can make informed decisions about their health.

FBCL will offer a series of health literacy workshops across multiple branches, shaped by staff feedback, patron requests, and demographic data. Planned topics include:

- Managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease
- Nutrition and healthy cooking demonstrations
- Mental health education and stress-management strategies
- Telehealth skills and patient-portal usage

Programs will be developed with partners including Fort Bend County Health & Human Services, local hospitals and clinics, mental health nonprofits, and community educators. FBCL will also produce bilingual print and digital guides to help patrons find credible health information and local providers.

Publicity and Promotion

FBCL will use its strong communications infrastructure to ensure broad visibility. Promotion will include:

- Website and social media features
- Newsletter announcements to thousands of subscribers
- Flyers and posters in branches, community centers, senior centers, and partner offices
- Outreach through ESL, citizenship, and adult-education programs
- Cross-promotion with county health agencies and nonprofit partners

Staff will highlight events during reference interactions with patrons seeking health information, while partners will share program details through their own networks to reach seniors, immigrants, and other specific audiences.

Meeting Patrons' Digital Literacy Needs

Digital literacy is essential to modern health literacy, and FBCL will integrate technology instruction into all programs. Additional workshops will focus on:

- Accessing telehealth services
- Identifying trustworthy online health resources

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✓ V. Budget

Budget Plan*

Describe your plans for the grant funds. What will you use the funding to purchase or support? Please be specific (e.g. \$1,000 will be spent on staff time to support the development and implementation of the project, \$1,000 will be used to purchase a laptop dedicated to telehealth appointments). **The total amount of this section must add up to \$8,000.**

Format budget similar to the following:

- \$XXX for Item(s) 1

- \$XXX for Item(s) 2
- \$XXX for Item(s) 3

Health Literacy Programming team seeks to use the funding for several projects. Telehealth Kits equipped with iPads, stands, and vital signs monitoring tools will be purchased for three libraries. Select libraries have dedicated study rooms that can be utilized for virtual doctor visits and enhanced with the Telehealth Kit checkout. The team also seeks to expand our digital health library with medical books and a dedicated space on our online eBook platform, Libby. In the program budget, funding will be used to fund community partner classes, speaker honorarium and program supplies. While our digital health pamphlets with Health Literacy information will be created in-house, some budget is set aside for the initial printing costs. An amount of the budget is dedicated to the ALA Practitioners Guide Recommended materials.

Guide Recommended Materials 1,500

Telehealth Kits 1830

Vital Signs Monitoring Tools 740

4 characters left of 1,000

VI. Upload Supporting Documents - OPTIONAL

Please upload any additional materials that support your proposed community engagement project. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Letters of support
- Sample promotional materials

Upload (1)

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

Upload (2)

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

Upload (3)

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

Upload (4)

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

Upload (5)

Upload a file [5 MiB allowed]

✓ VII. Review and Submit

Please review your application to ensure a complete submission. Once you have completed your review, click "Submit" in the bottom right corner of your screen.

You cannot make changes to your application once it has been submitted. Late or incomplete applications and applications from reviewers whose institutions are applying for the corresponding grant opportunity will not be reviewed.

Ensure you receive messages regarding your application! Emails regarding your application status will come from administrator@grantinterface.com. Please save this email address as a contact to prevent notification emails from being marked as spam.

✓ VIII. E-Sign Application

An application for a Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults grant is an application for a grant from ALA, using funding provided by United Healthcare. ALA is required by law to ask applicants to identify a certifying official who is authorized to submit applications for funding on behalf of the institution.

Certifying Official First Name*

Kyle Prasad

Certifying Official Last Name*

George

Certifying Official Title*

County Judge

Certifying Official Institution*

Fort Bend County

Certifying Official Email Address*

KP.George@fortbendcountytx.gov

Certification*


By checking this box and submitting this application, the authorized representative for the applicant organization certifies that all statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that the applicant organization (including, when pertinent, each additional library branch on whose behalf it is applying) is neither presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, nor voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency.

NOTE: You can check the status of your institution with regard to debarment at the website of the [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#).

I agree

Certification Date (today's date)*

	
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 Due by 01/07/2026 11:59 PM CST.

Abandon Request

Save Application

Submit Application