Frequently-Asked Questions

ILEAD Definitions

Team Member = A member of a five-person team that has been accepted to participate in the ILEAD program

Community User Representative = A member of the community who agrees to serve in an advisory capacity to a member of the ILEAD team. Upon selection into the ILEAD program, each team member will acquire his or her own Community User Representative.

Mentor = Each ILEAD team will be assigned a mentor who will guide and facilitate the team process.

Instructor = Experts in various fields who will teach during the in-person sessions.

What is an ILEAD team and how do I become part of one?

The structure of the ILEAD program is based upon a team process: forming a team, identifying a community need to be addressed, and then creating a project to address that community need. Each team will consist of five members; at least one member must work in a public library. We strongly encourage multi-type library collaboration when assembling your ILEAD USA-Wisconsin team.

Do I need to have an MLS/MLIS to be eligible to apply?

No. Anyone who works in a library (public, school, academic, special, or regional public library system) is eligible to apply.

How many teams will be able to participate in the 2015 ILEAD USA -Wisconsin?

We will be able to accommodate a maximum of five ILEAD USA-Wisconsin teams.

I come from a large public library. Can we form a team from just one library so that we can more easily work together?

Each ILEAD USA-Wisconsin team must have at least one member who works in a public library. Preference in our selection process will be given to teams whose members come from more than one type of library. The team dynamics and the resulting team project will be stronger if a variety of library experiences and viewpoints are included.

What happens to our application if we can't get five people who want to be part of a team?

If your team is having difficulty finding five members, we suggest using social media and listservs to get the word out. Keep in mind that the community-based project your team will identify does not necessarily need to be geographically based.

Can a library board member or member of our library's Friends group apply to be on an ILEAD team?

No. Only staff working in a Wisconsin library can apply to be part of an ILEAD team. Library stakeholders – such as library board members or members of a library Friends group – can play an important role within your ILEAD team by serving as community user representatives.

Should we have our team's project selected in advance, or will we do that at the first in-person session?

We ask that your team identify a community need that can be addressed with participatory technology. The ILEAD USA-Wisconsin application requires that your team identifies a community need. However, the project that will address this need can be flexible or in a theoretical stage going into the first ILEAD USA-Wisconsin in-person session. A more concrete team project will be expected to be formed by the end of the first intersession.

Can you give me some examples of what projects previous ILEAD teams have undertaken?

In addition to four ILEAD programs having taken place in Illinois, four states (Colorado, Iowa, Ohio and Utah) participated in the first ILEAD USA program in 2013. Examples of projects that past ILEAD teams in these states have done include: a website where Illinois law school students can request legal research advice, a database of usable Illinois maps, a community portal on economic issues, a web portal for GED test that simultaneously teaches basic web skills, an iPad lending program, and traveling robotic kits.

Is work for the team projects only done during the mandatory three in-person sessions?

No. The ILEAD USA-Wisconsin program consists of nine months of work and activity. In addition to the three in-person sessions, the members of each ILEAD team will meet with the team's mentor (in person, by phone, or virtually) during the intersession periods to work on the team project. We will also be announcing intersession virtual training opportunities on specific topics that might benefit your team's project.

How much of a time commitment should I plan for these intersession opportunities?

Each ILEAD team member should plan on devoting anywhere from ten to thirty hours during the intersession periods

I'm a library director and would like to know if participation in ILEAD USA-Wisconsin counts toward my CE certification requirements.

Yes. The three in-person sessions will count toward your regular Wisconsin library director certification; necessary paperwork will be available at each of the sessions (six contact hours for full days and three contact hours for half days).

What if my library doesn't want me to be gone for the three in-person sessions?

We realize that participating in ILEAD USA-Wisconsin will result in time away from your place of work, but the benefits derived from your ILEAD participation will directly benefit your place of work in myriad and

unexpected ways. Because attendance at all three in-person sessions is mandatory, the ILEAD USA-Wisconsin application requires an acknowledgement from the director or governing authority of your place of work that your ILEAD participation is being supported.

Why won't my travel to Heidel House for the three in-person sessions be reimbursed?

Part of the proven ILEAD structure is a high level of commitment from the individual team member and his / her library, so your travel to Heidel House – whether it is paid for by your library or by you - can be considered a type of in-kind contribution.

If my team is selected for ILEAD USA-Wisconsin will we need to share hotel rooms at Heidel House?

No. Each team member will receive his / her own single hotel room at the Heidel House during the three in-person sessions. Our 2015 ILEAD USA-Wisconsin program is based upon the successful structure of the Illinois ILEAD program (now in its fourth year). Something stressed by past ILEAD participants is the intensive nature of the in-person sessions and the need to have quiet time and a chance to be well rested.

If we are each assigned a single hotel room at Heidel House, can I bring a friend / spouse / family member?

No. Team members are expected to commit to ILEAD activities while attending the in-person sessions. Any other activities associated with Heidel House or Green Lake should be arranged outside of the in-person sessions.

What about meals during the in-person sessions? I'm on a very restricted diet.

All meals during the three in-person sessions will be provided. Heidel House has extensive experience in meeting a wide variety of dietary needs, so we will be able to accommodate all restrictions.

Will my team have to produce a final product at the last of the three sessions?

During the nine month ILEAD process, each team will concentrate on the process of creating a team project.