ILEAD USA – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is ILEAD USA?

ILEAD brings together teams of library staff, mentors, instructors, and community members to work cooperatively over the course of nine months to address a need in their communities. The program combines leadership, collaboration, community and technology. Started by the Illinois State Library, ILEAD USA is the nationwide expansion of the ILEAD program to partnering states, providing and sharing resources for each state to replicate their success. In 2015, Maine will be one of those partnering states.

ILEAD USA will expand library staff members' leadership skills and their abilities to use participatory technology to address an identified community need. ILEAD USA has a direct impact on the end user by engaging libraries' users in a conversation to identify needs; involving user representatives to provide critical feedback during the development of a participatory technology product; and using the product to improve the quality of life in the community.

Why would I want to participate?

ILEAD USA is a unique means of developing collaboration, leadership and technology skills vital to the role that libraries are playing in our communities. Training in these skills is provided and applied, often during the same session. Networking among your peers and with mentors and instructors creates professional and personal connections that will last beyond the end of the program. The real and primary goal of ILEAD USA, though, is to strengthen the ability of library staff members to connect with and serve their communities.

ILEAD USA needs the participation of mentors and instructors, who bring their expertise in leadership or technology to the program to pass along to the ILEADers, as well as assistance with the overall guidance and development of ILEAD USA in Maine.

What is the time commitment?

Participants in ILEAD can expect an impact on their time schedules over the course of the ILEAD program. There are three immersive sessions which all participants are required to attend: March 23-26, June 22-25 and October 26-29. Team members should meet to organize at least once (in person or virtually) before the March session, as well as in between each of the immersive sessions. Additionally, some engagement with the community and some continuing education events are required throughout the program.

What is the cost?

Costs for lodging, meals and travel to and from the immersive sessions will be covered for participants. Funding is also available for the development or purchase of the technology vital to the success of the team projects. We are doing our best to minimize any financial impact to participants and their libraries.

Where do I go for more information?

Go to http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/ce/ilead_usa/index.shtml or call 207-287-5620.