

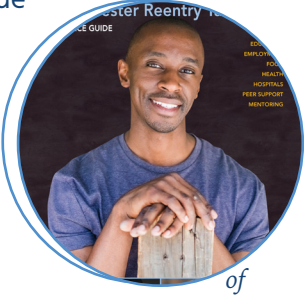
Job/Career Support includes interactive group seminars, job search resources and one-to-one coaching (in-person and online). This flexible service connects community members with expert assistance to meet their career and employment goals. Resources include the third edition of our **Job Search Toolkit**.



What our clients say: *“Thank you for helping me with my resume and cover letter... I feel very lucky and grateful because I got to prepare for the interview with you... it made a difference.”*

“The Seminar exceeded my expectations. The course... opened up new goals and opportunities not previously considered.”

Reentry Services work to inform justice-impacted individuals of needed supports. We provide programming, accessible content, and an email/chat helpline. We are helped immensely by our collaboration with the Westchester County Reentry Task Force, the Westchester Department of Correction, and other service agencies.



What our clients say: *“Thank you for the “Welcome Back” – you provided a lot needed information.”*

VisionLabs: Reading for Lifetime is a pilot program to find new ways for libraries to serve patrons with visual impairments and emerging vision loss. In addition to referrals, we lend out digital magnifiers, adjustable lamps, and other visually accessible technology.



What our clients say: *“Thanks so much for meeting with P and me yesterday. You met her right where she is, taking time to listen to her strengths and challenges and acknowledging them, then explaining so carefully how you can help. I saw her physical demeanor relax as she spoke with you. It was clear that it was one of the first times she’d felt that someone truly understood what she’s going through. Thanks again -- you were so helpful.”*

Music & Memory is a program to support caregivers by helping them use library resources and loanable music devices for family members at home with memory loss.



What our clients say: *“My father has a general positive mood when he is listening to the music and he comments and wants to share with my mother... It is specially relevant for my father because being from a foreign country, the music of his youth would not be played on the radio or other media. It was also made very easy by the friendly staff helping with the technical side of entering the music into the device.”*

Reconnect with Tech provides both free training and tools (Chromebooks and wireless internet) to justice-impacted individuals in Westchester County. Coming from state, county, and local agency referrals, two cohorts have now successfully completed 15 hours of training (delivered by the STEM Alliance) and can more effectively use digital devices and services to navigate reentry – with ongoing support in digital navigation by the Westchester Library System. This 5-year program was made possible by a significant grant from Schmidt Futures as part of National Digital Inclusion Alliance.



What our clients say: *“They really made me feel comfortable in their teaching style and the delivery of information (very patient)”*

To find out more
.....
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Making Connections & Encouraging Discovery at the Library



Westchester Library System (WLS) helps individuals and families across Westchester County discover and connect to information services that advance their knowledge, needs, and dreams. Whether we’re delivering library materials or personalized services, we are always looking for unmet needs. In this brochure, you can find examples of our ongoing programs.



HSE Connect! provides information, guidance and resources to adults seeking their New York State high school equivalency diploma. Most participants use **GED Academy**, an online independent study program available through Westchester Library System. A small team of volunteers

works with program staff to monitor student progress, assure sufficient content mastery, and provide encouragement to keep these adults moving toward their goal.



What our clients say: *“This morning I took the GED Math test, I passed!! I can tell you that without my coach this could not have happened. Thanks for having this wonderful program to help people like me.”*

Westchester Breathes emerged from our work in the Westchester Resilience Coalition. Participants experience gentle movement, breathing and relaxation exercises that reduce stress and anxiety and increase calm and well-being. In 2022, in addition to our well attended public programs, we provided staff wellness events for several agencies alongside trainings to advance this effort throughout New York State.



What our clients say: *“Feeling connected with anyone and anything throughout the pandemic has been tough; the consistency and the care and guidance that you’ve offered is really indescribable. It literally made my day. And that was only my personal experience. Seeing and hearing the other participants share their relief, gratefulness and happiness with being connected was very moving. The quality of instruction is top notch and I believe that every person you’ve touched is “paying it forward” in some way.”*



Interlibrary Loan Services provide Westchester residents with access to books and articles from other libraries across the country. WLS also lends unique materials from our own collections to other libraries. In 2022 we circulated a total of 7,476 materials.

Senior Law Day Collaborative, co-chaired by WLS outreach director Elena Falcone, offers free educational seminars and brief one-to-one consultations (in-person and online). This work taps the knowledge of attorneys, financial planners and other professionals serving Westchester

County’s older adults. When possible, we offer a full day of learning in events such as the October 19th **Yonkers Seniors Law Day**, hosted at the Grinton I. Will Library. In 2022, more than 1,150 attended our webinars, and over 200 separate consultations were delivered.



What our clients say: *“I want to thank you and everyone responsible for Senior Law Day. It was very helpful and informative. I learned so much and everyone was so nice, giving, and eager to serve. I appreciate each and every one of you...”*

WLS’ commitment to advocating for and promoting equity and access is the foundation for our county-wide **Digital Equity** initiatives. Working with member libraries and trusted community partners – in the library, onsite at community-based organizations, or at community events - WLS helps individuals to obtain the information technology capacity and resources to fully participate in our society, democracy, and economy.

What our clients say: *“I am now retired and have been out of work and I’m excited to learn about all of that stuff I can benefit from”*



Community Conversations are a focused effort to gather insights on the aspirations and concerns of those using WLS outreach services. We invite community members to share perspectives on their aspirations, perceived challenges, and recommended changes. The resulting insights will be shared internally and with partner agencies to inform our work.



What our clients say: *“I wish there were more opportunities like this. Please get this out to those who need to know. We need things to change.”*

The **College Coach** program, piloted at the Mamaroneck Public Library, is primarily intended for Spanish-speaking/ first-generation students who may need additional support in navigating their path to college. Expanded web content and community outreach encourages connection with our College Coach.



What our clients say: *“The guidance was great and necessary. Amy helped me so much because I didn’t know where to start with my FAFSA and TAP application. Most students have never seen this website or even know what they should apply for. I am highly satisfied with the service”*

WLS Cataloging Services oversees the content of the shared online catalog, which makes it possible for the Westchester community to be aware of the member libraries’ holdings, and for the libraries to circulate their materials. The WLS catalogers import or create bibliographic records for items including books, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays, games, government documents and other traditional library materials, as well as objects such as knitting needles, binoculars, musical instruments, baking tins, dolls, laptop computers and much more. They also work on special projects; in 2022 they cataloged more than 4,200 books from the National Maritime Historical Society’s collection, expanding access to people outside of Peekskill.

