



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES SPONSORS COMMUNITY RESOURCES EXCHANGE

Service organizations, agencies, and libraries to share information at June 5 Open House

(DOVER, Delaware) May 7, 2008 — In today's challenging economy, many families need assistance with everything from housing and food to family counseling, adult education and job placement. The Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL) is making the search for this kind of help easier through public libraries across the state.

The Delaware Libraries' Community Resources Exchange initiative will be launched at an Open House on June 5, where community service organizations and agencies are invited to share resources and provide information that can be made available at public libraries.

"Non-profit service organizations and government agencies are facing drastic budget cuts at a time when the public has an even greater need for their assistance," said Annie Norman, State Librarian. "Through our Delaware Libraries' Community Resources Exchange, we will bring these organizations and agencies together to create synergies that will help all of them maximize their resources. Delawareans will be able to walk into their public library and find information about the services they need all in one place."

The Exchange will focus on services in five critical areas.

- Basic Needs:** housing, food, utilities, clothing, transportation and financial literacy.
- Children and Families:** early literacy, family counseling, parent training and stress management.
- Employability:** adult education, literacy, immigration and naturalization, and job placement
- Health:** wellness, mental health, disability, aging.
- Miscellaneous:** recreation, senior services, volunteerism, legal aid

Following the initial Open House, the Division of Libraries will work with participating organizations to coordinate additional training for library staff and to facilitate information delivery to public libraries for them to provide referrals to community services offered through the Exchange.

"The Open House is the first step in enhancing library services for people in need," said Norman. "Libraries are well noted for building strong partnerships within their communities."

Community leaders and representatives from all Delaware community service organizations and agencies are welcome to attend the Open House on Thursday, June 5, from 2-4 p.m. at the Delaware Division of Libraries in Dover. For information about the Open House and to register, visit www.state.lib.de.us For further information contact Annie Norman, annie.norman@state.de.us

###