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WEST PALM BEACH



Mandel Public Library
of West Palm Beach

city news



Event: Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach Receives Grant for
“Square One Initiative: Reconnecting Disconnected Young Adults”

When: November 17, 2016

Where: Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach
411 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 868-7701
wpbcitylibrary.org

West Palm Beach, FL – November 17, 2016 – The Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach has been awarded an \$85,000.00 grant* to fund the “Square One Initiative: Reconnecting Disconnected Young Adults” program. The Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach will work with local organizations and other departments within the City, including the Mayor’s Village Initiative, to expand services to 16 to 24-year-old young adults who are unemployed and not attending school.

The grant will provide funds to furnish and staff a multi-use room in an existing space on the Library’s Technology Floor (2nd Floor). This will enable the Library to provide enhanced services to enable these young adults to navigate the challenges facing them through mentoring, technology, career development, and connecting with community resources. Square One is planned to open January 23, 2017.

In an effort to break down barriers to employment, young adults will have access to a driving simulator and driving test practice programs to help get a driver’s license. Computers loaded with industry standard software, and career and resume programs will be available for use. Learning Express Library will be available for use from the library’s website 24/7. A variety of job skill classes including Microsoft Office, online business etiquette, and financial literacy will be offered in a small group setting. Basic classes on coding, robotics and 3D printing will also be introduced. Local business leaders and organizations will be invited to speak with the young adults to share their knowledge, and offer volunteer or internship positions where available. The grant also provides for an additional library employee dedicated to the success of these young adults.

The Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach is excited about this unique opportunity to address the needs of our local young adults, as well as the opportunity to further develop the mutually-beneficial relationships with other organizations in the area.

Assistant Library Director, Lisa Hathaway remarks, "It is amazing that we have been awarded the funding to create a dedicated space with resources to target the specific needs of our disconnected young adults. Whether it is filling out a FAFSA to head back to school or finding food assistance, the Mandel Public Library wants to provide every young person with the resources to remove obstacles and find their path to an outstanding future. It is our hope if they start from "Square One", they can go anywhere!"

*The grant is provided under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Florida Department of State, State Library and Archives of Florida.

For Additional Information:

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