

Prime Time Description and Site Responsibilities

How Does Prime Time Work?

Each week a storyteller reads up to three books, followed by facilitated discussion with a humanities scholar who engages participants with questions that promote critical thinking skills. At the end of each session, families keep the books that were read to create home libraries. Programs typically serve up to 25 families comprised of parents and children ages 6-10 with separate pre-reading activities planned for children 5 and under. Programs may be presented in English or as a bilingual Spanish/English program.

Prime Time is designed to be a fun and memorable experience. Each session begins with a free meal, participants learn about the valuable resources offered by libraries, and weekly door prizes ensure families are motivated to return each week.

Prime Time Goals

- Bond families around the act of reading and learning together.
- Reinforce the role of family.
- Encourage parents and children to read and discuss the humanities topics raised in the books.
- Help parents and children become active library users.
- Create home libraries to encourage continued reading.

Host Site Requirements

- Identify a program coordinator who will attend a one-day training session in New Orleans along with a program scholar and storyteller.
- Order and distribute program books from an approved Prime Time syllabus.
- Promote Prime Time according to Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) guidelines and recruit up to 25 families.
- Provide credit to the MHC in all promotional materials.
- Arrange for family transportation to and from the program as needed.
- Provide adequate space for meals/snacks, the Prime Time reading and discussion, and preschool activities.
- Provide a weekly five-minute “library commercial” to introduce families to additional library programs and resources.
- Organize staff and resources for weekly preschool activities (a manual of suggested readings/activities is provided at the training in New Orleans).
- Issue library cards to all participating families (if applicable).
- Complete and submit required reports to the MHC upon conclusion of the program.

- Administer and compile required participant surveys including entry, exit, and 90-day follow-up surveys.
- Provide cash or in-kind support for program costs not covered by MHC funds.
- Present award certificates and gift books to families at program's end.

Responsibilities of the Michigan Humanities Council

- Provide staff support and technical assistance regarding Prime Time.
- Act as intermediary between the library and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.
- Assist in promotion and securing printed promotional materials.
- Conduct site visits and program evaluation.
- Assist library in identifying an appropriate scholar and storyteller as needed.
- Write proposals for future funding.
- Provide reusable book bags for each Prime Time cycle.
- Pay the required partnership fee to Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (\$500/site).