



LAWRENCE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

For Immediate Release

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**Lawrence Public Library Awarded \$52,800 Grant from FINRA
Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association**

The Lawrence Public Library today announced that it has received a \$52,800 “Smart Investing@your library” grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. The funds will be used to incorporate a new Financial Wellness Clinic into the library’s Business Center to provide basic money management and investment information to families in Lawrence.

“As one of only 20 public libraries in the United States to receive a “Smart Investing@your library” grant this year, this is a great honor for Lawrence,” said Library Director Bruce Flanders. “The funds will enable the library to build its personal finance and investing resource materials, create a series of educational web pages, and offer workshops that teach money management and investing fundamentals.”

At the centerpiece of the project are eight Financial Wellness Clinic workshops that will focus on issues such as getting out of debt, creating a household budget, building an emergency fund, savings and investment basics, setting investment goals, love and money, and living inexpensively in Lawrence. While the workshops are aimed at low income families, they will be open to anyone who is interested in improving their overall financial health. The library will work with the school district and social service organizations throughout Lawrence to get the word out about the program to local parents and families. The workshops will be offered beginning in January of 2012 and will be taught by experts from the Housing and Credit Counseling service. Free child care will be provided.

“You don’t have to be Bill Gates to save and grow your money. Our goal is to provide the community with unbiased, straightforward money management and investment information that will help people in Lawrence become more financially healthy,” said Flanders. “As an organization that serves the entire community, the library is uniquely positioned to offer this valuable information to the public.”

For additional information about the Smart Investing@yourlibrary program, see the FINRA/ALA press release at <http://rusa.ala.org/blog/>.

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