

## Great Programming on a Budget

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### Tips:

- Donations, donations, donations! Many patrons are willing to purchase items for the library (or have items you need laying around the house); A few weeks before a program, put a list of needed items on the desk/post on social media
- Ask for volunteers, or for community businesses to host presentations
- Utilize your Friends' Group (if you have one) for help with larger programs
- Utilize special talents or experiences of staff members
- Don't forget Senior Centers for donations and volunteers
- Have an Amazon Wish List (especially around Christmas)
- When you discover something interesting, consider if your community would also find it interesting and how it may be the subject of a great program
- Talk, talk, talk with your community!
- Remember to THANK people with a card or a token from the event

### Program Ideas:

#### Free Program Sources/Ideas:

- Community Action Partnership/UNH Cooperative Extension have many great programs/services they can present at the library (Infant soothing workshop, Crock-Pot cooking, child nutrition, Master Gardener programs, etc)
- "Local talent" - ask your patrons if they would present on a skill they have such as knitting/crochet, home canning, gardening tips, travelogues, etc
- Local businesses- such as garden centers, ice cream parlors, banks, bike shops, etc
- VITA tax prep or Property Tax assistance, Medicare/ACA signup
- NHSL MakerPlay Lending Library
- Candidates' Forum
- Coffee with a Cop/Meet and Greet local leaders
- Programs around your collection: Book discussions, movie nights, Legos
- Gathering programs - no speaker, just patrons getting together ex. Sit N Knit, Adult Coloring, Poetry Readings
- NH Astronomical Society - Night Sky programs
- CLiF grants - storyteller and book giveaways

Programs for \$10 or less:

- Jello Earthquakes- great for 3-6th grade. Supplies- jello, toothpicks, mini marshmallows
- Dollar Store STEM- Paper cups, index cards, masking tape, paper clips, rubber bands etc, that kids can use in a MakerSpace (Madbury MakerSpace bin example)
- Gingerbread house contest (ask for items to be donated)
- Noon Year's Eve Party
- Crafternoon
- Library Mini-Golf (\$ store)
- Doll Tea - Supplies: cookies, juice (kids bring doll, fancy tea cup)
- Blackout Poetry. Supplies: discarded books, markers
- PBS POV movies - Free to screen, postage cost to mail back

Other lower-cost Programs:

- Local Authors - Free, or sometimes just a travel stipend
- Kids, Books & the Arts grants (\$50-150)
- NH Humanities to Go speakers (as little as \$50)
- Movie License - show movies all year, kids, adults, series
- Elf on the Shelf (~\$30) - annual fun!
- Polar Express/ Holiday story time
- Play Group
- Messy Art Night (~\$40)