



# Talbot County Free Library

The mission of the Talbot County Free Library is to  
INSPIRE our community to  
DISCOVER ideas and information  
to ENRICH and RENEW lives.

# By the Numbers

## Talbot County Free Library



**27,916-County**  
**12,894-Easton**  
Library Card Holders



**359,231-2019**  
**270,959-2021**  
Items circulated



**77,119-2019**  
**86,005-2021**  
E-Resources Used



**179,361-2019**  
**32,223-2021**  
Total Library Visits



**7,500-2019**  
Volunteer Hours



**61,347-2019**  
Computer and Wi-Fi Users



**781-2019**  
**401-2021**  
Library Events



**27,051-2019**  
**16,048-2021**  
Program Attendees

# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Technology

- Equity of Access: Over 75 Wi-Fi Hotspots are available to the public for checkout. The hotspots allow those without easy access to the Internet to connect for work or educational purposes
- Library provides over 40 public computer workstations, high-speed internet, Wi-Fi access (inside and outside the buildings), and print services
- Free 24/7 access to downloadable services—with access to over 1 million eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies and television shows; many eResources available
- Technology training and classes (in-person and online) help to bridge the digital divide
- I-pads will be available for patrons to checkout in April
- Special hands-on programs for youth on robotics, flying drones, virtual reality and 3D-printing

# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Youth Services

- All TCPS students now have a virtual card which gives them access to many online resources including online tutoring in most K-12 academic subject areas and a language learning e-Resource that allows students to learn over 70 languages
- Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival is now a very successful event in its 7<sup>th</sup> year
- *STEM programs*: Science in the Summer, Chess Club, 3D-Printing, and STEAM Festival
- Raising a Reader partnership with TCPS to provide all public school students in Pre-K and Kindergarten with their first library card
- Summer and online reading incentive programs that gets youth excited about reading and learning
- Outreach visits include programs to the schools, the Chesapeake Multicultural Center, Building African American Minds, the Judy Center, day care centers and many community events
- Special classes: Gardening programs offered by Talbot County Garden Club and Ukulele classes
- Easton ARPA grant funding paid for early literacy programming to the schools and onsite at the library

# TCFL SUPPORTS EASTON YOUTH





# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Job Training / Adult Education

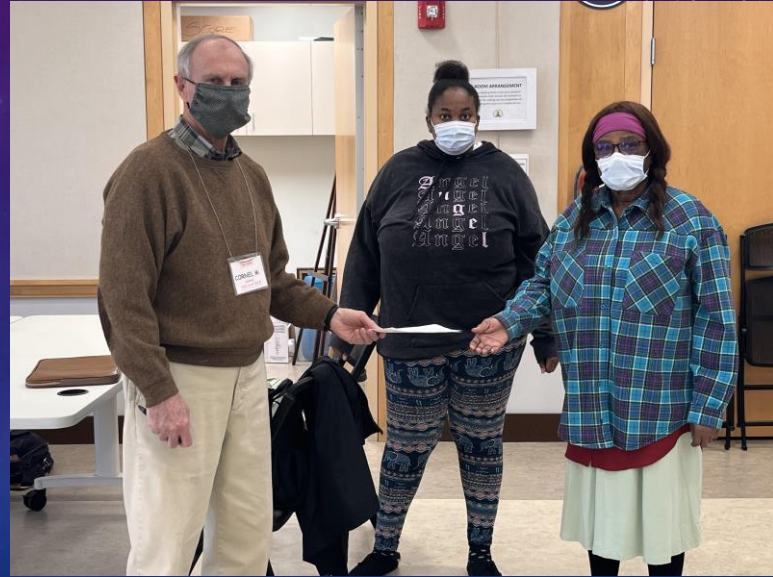
- We offer free educational opportunities for adults including:
  - Instructor led online courses (Gale courses), practice tests, language learning and tutoring services - patrons can learn new job skills in hundreds of different fields, including healthcare and technology
  - Microsoft Excel classes
  - Master Gardener plant clinics
  - Frequent author / book discussions
  - Discussions and classes on environmental, art, music and cultural topics
  - New local museum pass program-circulating free admissions to local museums
  - Talbot County Habitat for Humanity tool library demonstration program
  - Easton ARPA grant paid for a collection of skill building books and eBooks on work related skills and topics such as interviewing, writing resumes, leadership, and technology

# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Legal, tax and other assistance

Partner with other organizations to offer vital services such as:

- **AARP Tax-Aide**-expert, free tax assistance to residents
- **American Job Center**-assistance with job openings, job searching, and job training opportunities
- **Chesapeake College**-study space and tutoring for college students and blood pressure clinic
- **Easton Police Department**-coffee with a cop, training, community engagement
- **Easton Farmers Market**-free book giveaway and building library awareness
- **Maryland Legal Aid**-free legal assistance to residents
- **Master Gardeners-University of Maryland Extension**-gardening programs and Seed library
- **Talbot County Circuit Court**-free family law assistance
- **Talbot County Health Department**-give away masks and COVID-19 test kits to the public
- **Talbot County Imagination Library**-promotion and help with signing up children for book program

# TCFL SUPPORTS EASTON





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# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Economic Impacts and Employment

- Serves local entrepreneurs and businesses by offering online courses on work related skills such as accounting and technology and resources on starting a business
- Provides free meeting room and study room space
- Holds and supports large community wide events such as the Chesapeake Children's Book Festival, Frederick Douglass Day, Chesapeake Film Festival, Waterfowl Festival, and Fire and Ice Festival
- Works with Easton Economic Development on community events and initiatives
- Assists patrons with online applications, resume writing, searching for jobs and filing for unemployment
- Offers practice tests and study materials for a wide range of academic and occupational exams
- Helped to publicize and provide patron assistance with Easton 2020 Census efforts
- **2018 Beacon study showed that TCFL had a return on investment of \$4.71 for every dollar invested**

# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Supports Diverse Groups

- TCFL provides information, resources, and support for patrons with disabilities such as Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
- Wide variety of programs supporting diverse topics including Nuestras Raices
- Use of Easton ARPA funding to add more Spanish and bilingual materials to library collection
- EDI Book Club
- Chesapeake Multicultural Center-children's programs and use of Easton ARPA funding to purchase Citizenship study materials
- Senior Center-programs for seniors and use of Easton ARPA funding to purchase large print materials to be housed at the Senior Center
- Talbot County Detention Center-use of Easton ARPA funding to purchase Spanish language materials to be housed at the detention center

# TCFL Serves Basic Needs: Preserve History

- Maryland Room-preserves historic records, genealogy information, oral histories, digital history projects, and other archival records relevant to the community, including minority groups. Maryland Room answered over 27,000 reference questions in 2019 and regularly assisted out of town visitors and researchers with special research projects.
- COVID-19 oral history project
- Frederick Douglass Literary Landmark
- Programs with Talbot County Historical Society
- Women's History programming

# Library's Community Impact:

- “I am deeply indebted to the TCFL for their years of assistance getting books I needed for the research and writing that I have done with articles...and my soon-to-be -finished book for middle school kids who are on the autism spectrum.”
- “Easton is really special. The very first time I entered the Easton Library I was impressed not only with the building and the book collection; but with the staff....they all want to help people, with kindness and professionalism.”
- “The library has really stepped up during the COVID pandemic to keep residents up-to-date on masking, vaccines, testing, and other community resources. In addition, the library continues to provide great service and serve as a wonderful resource for research. One of the gems of Talbot County!!!”
- “During the first long scary winter of Covid 19, being able to go online, find books, request them and pick them up contributed greatly to my mental health.”