

## **Tip Sheet**

### **Ways to Reach At Risk Parents/Caregivers in Your Community Who Don't Come to the Library**

Reaching non users in your community with Ready to Read information requires research and a creative approach! It also requires staff to move from building based to community based thinking. Use the tips below to begin thinking where to hold your parent workshops. Personalize your approach for your individual community.

**1.) Find out where low income parents live in your community. Certain neighborhoods may provide opportunities for gathering people together for a workshop. Possibilities include:**

- Apartment complexes with central meeting/rec room
- Low income housing near a park with a rec center building

**2.) Think about where low income parents spend "agency time" in your community. Many of these social services agencies have meeting room space and are very willing to partner for Ready to Read Workshops:**

- Department of Jobs and Family Services sites
- Women & Infants (WIC) sites
- Health Department or Health Center/Clinics
- Social Security Office

**3.) Which childcare centers, preschools or other early learning agencies in your community enroll the children of low income families? Most centers are very willing to partner with the library to offer Ready to Read Workshops on a parent night.**

**5.) Talk to staff at the elementary schools in your area. Ask whether the school holds parent nights or other events. If so, ask for time on the agenda. Many parents of elementary students also have pre-K children at home and would benefit from Ready to Read information.**

**6.) Drive around your community and look for additional places parents gather. Talk to the leaders of nonprofit agencies and ask them to help you identify places you can reach low income families with Ready to Read information.**