Examples of ways libraries are partnering in their communities:
(In library’s own words, taken directly from 2018 Ready to Read reports.)

From Baker City’s 2018 Summer Reading work:
We worked with the Baker Historical Museum to visit their extensive rock collection which includes a special black light room that causes some of the rocks to glow. We had over 40 kids in attendance and they, along with their parents, went on a scavenger hunt to find out all about the rock collection.

From Crook County’s 2018 Summer Reading work:
For this year’s Summer Reading Program, library staff organized a joint partnership between the Library, the Bowman Museum (our county history museum), and the Ochoco Players, a local theater troupe. The library had partnered with the museum in the past, primarily on simple one-off programs involving guest lecturers, while the Ochoco Players’ past involvement with the library was limited to them using our multipurpose room as a rehearsal space. Public Services staff felt that we could attempt a more in-depth partnership with both organizations based on our similar missions (all three of our organizations are dedicated to bringing cultural and artistic opportunities to Crook County residents) and complementary talents (none of our staff were interested in putting on calico bonnets and affecting a high country twang – but hey, we can do marketing!). The museum director and the head of the Players agreed, and a lengthy and complex planning period kicked off with our Adult Services and Children’s Services librarians taking the lead on the library side of things.

The program that came out of this partnership, titled “A Night at the Museum” after the popular movie, featured actors playing characters from Crook County’s history and interacting directly with some of the museum’s exhibits and artifacts. This program was a hit with a broad spectrum of library and museum users; with 75 attendees, it was among the most popular programs we did during Summer Reading.

Our partners at the museum and with the Players were equally happy with the enthusiastic response – so much so, that we’re working on spinning the program off into a monthly (or possibly bimonthly) lunchtime event where patrons can have tea with a character from history. We’re aiming to have our first teatime museum program in February. If that smaller version of the program proves successful, I could see us taking it to other venues, including schools and senior care facilities.
From Harney County’s 2018 Summer Reading work:
For the past several years we have partnered with the local Summer Lunch Program. A staff member drives the route once a week bringing the SRP to children in 5 locations throughout the community. This has allowed us to serve twice as many children as we serve at the library. We appreciate the partner because she takes care of all the paperwork and purchasing food as required by the state so we can concentrate on the summer reading aspect. Many children are unable to get to the library for the weekly program so this partnership gives them the opportunity to receive some of the benefits of this program especially the emphasis on reading through the summer.

From Hillsboro’s 2018 Early Literacy work:
The Early Literacy Librarian worked with the Hillsboro Early Learning Team, a group of partners recruited and hosted by the Hillsboro School District whose mission is to “develop and implement an early learning system that provides opportunities, services and supports needed to ensure children ages birth through six and their families are prepared for educational and life success.” One major function of the group is to coordinate Kinder Fair events for the Hillsboro School District. Incoming Kindergarteners who attend receive a free book (sponsored by the Hillsboro Public Library via Ready to Read Grant funds) if they visit a certain number of tables at the fair.

From Toledo’s 2018 Summer Reading work:
A successful partnership we had this summer was with the 21st Century Summer Program at Yaquina View. I really appreciated connecting with young summer campers who typically do not get to participate in Summer Reading Programs because they have working parents who are busy during library hours. I was able to go to their camp once a week and read and interact with the campers. Each camper set a reading goal at the beginning of camp, and was provided time at camp to read. In addition, I was able to go to their camp once a week and read and interact with the campers. All of the campers met their goal and received a SRP t-shirt. I had such meaningful encounters with these campers, they loved (and so did I!) our time together. They were so excited to read, and they day they got their shirts was a true celebration. The camp director and I share the same literacy goals for these children, and we will be working together again next summer.