

GATHERING IDEAS FOR FUTURE STATEWIDE PROJECTS 2014

The Library Council of Washington is looking for your help in identifying ideas for the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to meet statewide library needs and opportunities.

Project name (a short descriptive title)

All Aboard for Kindergarten

Library, group, or person submitting proposal Spokane County Library District

Library Name, if different _____

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1. Briefly describe your idea for the use of LSTA funding (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

To develop a state wide ready for school program collaborating with the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) that libraries can incorporate into their early learning programs to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn. The program will focus on the 60% of children cared for by Family, Friends and Neighbors, especially those families that may be waiting for spots in Head Start and ECEAP programs although all would be welcome to participate. The other 40% of children are already in formal programs such as Early Head Start, Head Start and ECEAP (“Gates Study – Ready on Day One”). The design of the program will draw on programs that libraries across the state are currently using such as Every Child Ready to Read (PLA), Love Talk Play(Thrive by Five), Getting School Ready Booklets (FEL), and What’s the Big Idea, Mother Goose Math and Science (National Science Foundation). The goal is to align what libraries already do with WaKIDS data to design a series of programs that would help parents ensure their children have the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten. Findings from the Project Views study indicate that libraries using interactive and intentional intervention strategies produce positive learning outcomes for young children. Using WaKIDS data available for their local schools, librarians will tailor programs to community needs emphasizing skills from the six domains used to assess kindergarteners. The key to the program would be to offer the sessions on a regular basis so that all families could attend. Community connections will be made with local schools, child care providers, DEL, OSPI, ESD’s, Head Start and ECEAP programs. This would be an opportunity for librarians to connect with their local early learning coalition. Staff will be trained to use WaKIDS data and to integrate interactive and intentional strategies into library programs.

2. Briefly describe why funding of this idea is important to the Washington library community (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

Funding this project will raise awareness to the important role that libraries play in early learning. Providing opportunities for the 60% of children served by informal early learning programs has been a strong role of public libraries. Libraries will continue to be relevant in the community by becoming a valued partner in early learning. This is also a way to ensure equitable service for all children in the community as programs at libraries are free. We can also offer programs at various times and days to provide access to all. Programs will be offered with regular frequency so that families struggling to juggle jobs and life have ample opportunities to participate in these programs. An on-line tool will be developed to reinforce the six domains and provide ways that parents can engage in activities with their children beyond library programs. By providing free access to early learning programs, families in poverty will benefit and libraries will help to close the opportunity gap before children enter school. Studies show that this gap increases over time and early intervention is key to closing the gap.

This project will use Project VIEWS data to ensure that library programs prepare young learners. In addition, this project aligns with the goals of the ELPLP, Thrive by Five, OSPI and DEL that all children enter school ready to learn and reinforces the role of public libraries as valuable partners in the early learning community.

3. Briefly describe the outcome that is expected should the idea be funded. In other words, how will we know if the project has been successful and has achieved its goals? (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

The project will be successful if the percent of children entering kindergarten ready to learn increases across all 6 domains of the WaKIDS assessment. The program would need to be offered on a continuing basis so that we could see an increase over a period of time. We will measure the number of families that attend programs focusing on the six domains. Ideally over a period of time families will learn about all six of the domains. We will measure how many people visit the online support pages that reinforce learning and provide additional ideas for activities in each of the domains. Ultimately the success will be measured by the success of the children as they enter school. As WaKIDS expands the data they gather we hope to see that more children participate in early learning opportunities through libraries.

General Information

Which library types are intended as the primary beneficiaries of this project? (check all that apply)

Academic (private and public two-year and four-year academic institutions)

Public (libraries organized under RCW 27.12)

School (private and public K-12 schools)

Special (business and industry, law, medical, other government, tribal, other)

If other, specify: _____

The intended beneficiaries of the project? (check the primary beneficiary)

Library staff

Library users or potential library users

A specific group of staff or users, or a potential user group. Name the target beneficiaries(s): Children ages 3 – 5 and their parents, grandparents and caregivers (e.g., children, adults, disadvantaged, remote access library users, unserved community members, reference staff, IT staff, students)

The activities needed to implement this project are envisioned to include (check all that apply):

User training

Staff training

Grants

Development of best practices

Demonstration of emerging technology or practices

Other, please explain:

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue? 3-4 years so we can see if there is an increase in the number of children ready for kindergarten.

(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.)

Which Library Council areas of focus support the idea you are submitting (check all that apply)

1. Advance applied literacy in the state of Washington in areas such as legal research, health information, employment/job searching, and developing civic/voter education resources.

2. Enhance libraries relevancy in a democratic society.

3. Serve underserved, unserved, and culturally diverse communities and populations.