

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)

STEM

Library, group, or person submitting proposal Cheryl Heywood and Neel Parikh

Library Name, if different Timberland Regional Library and Pierce County Library System

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

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

Create focused programming and resources for STEM.

This would be a project supporting public libraries as they develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) programming. Model it after what was done with early learning in 1999:

1. Planning – work with a group of library staff to design a program over one year (this could also be eliminated to go straight to step 2)
2. Preparing Libraries/librarians –
 - a. Create a STEM advisory board of state specialists
 - b. Design training for library staff on how to introduce STEM in library programming and services
 - c. Deliver the training
 - d. Consider creating lists, toolkits, activity guides or other guidance about STEM resources and materials to be used or purchased by libraries
3. STEM program challenge grants. – offer small grants to libraries to prepare STEM programs &/or services. These should require a community partner.

There are some libraries in the state who are already part of STEM coalitions or have received funding for STEM activities but this would get all of us on the 'same page'.

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

Libraries are well positioned to integrate STEM in their youth services programming. A STEM background is increasingly important for youth to gain entry to good paying jobs when they graduate from either high school or college. STEM preparation is important for high school students when they enter college. Many are not proficient in this important area and need remedial work in any level of college to simply “catch up.”

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):

Prepare more youth to become successful as they move from K-12 to college to productive citizens in the US economy and society.

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): _____
(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? _____
(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.