Project Name: **Washington State Literacy Clearinghouse**

Library, **group,** or person submitting proposal   ***South Sound Literacy Advocates:***
South Sound Reading Foundation, Washington Organization for Reading Development;
Olympia Early Learning Center; Timberland Library System, Child Care Action Council,
Barnes & Noble, Shoalwater Bay Tribe Library, First Book, ESD 113 Sound to Harbor
Head Start/ECEAP, and Washington State Library.

Library Name, if different _____n/a_____

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

Literacy advocates from the South Sound region* of our state began meeting in
2007 to consider how existing literacy programs might further collaborate and
expand literacy support to an even higher degree. We immediately saw a need
for a database of literacy related services, providers and programs as well as
research, hence the suggestion for a **Washington State Literacy
Clearinghouse**. While many of those most in need of literacy services are the
unserved and underserved populations in our state it is often difficult to find
information to connect them to local literacy services, be it tutoring for a
struggling student, early literacy information and tips, GED preparation and
support, and classes for English language learners.

We propose the initial creation of a "regional" clearinghouse in the greater
South Sound region to serve as a model that could be scaled to a statewide level
over a four (4) year period.   A "one-stop shopping" clearinghouse database
would easily provide valuable information to citizens, literacy groups, libraries,
educators at all levels, philanthropic organizations and policy makers within
our state.

The Washington State Literacy Clearinghouse would have the following goals:
- Connect the person with a literacy need to the appropriate service.
- Advance an awareness of the multifaceted nature of "literacy" for
  all age groups throughout our state.
- Encourage collaborative opportunities for existing and emerging
  literacy programs.
- Provide access to research on literacy development.
- Expand literacy programs that work and are making a difference.

A literacy clearinghouse would facilitate connecting real people to programs that
meet their needs. It would increase accuracy of information as well as

collaboration among and between federal, state, local and philanthropic funding intended to develop a literate population in Washington State. It would provide up-to-date information to the state legislature and other policy makers on funding literacy efforts. A clearinghouse of this magnitude would indeed place a high priority and emphasis on promoting essential literacy skills for all.

*South Sound Literacy Advocates include: South Sound Reading Foundation, Washington Organization for Reading Development; Olympia Early Learning Center; Timberland Library System, Child Care Action Council, Barnes & Noble, Shoalwater Bay Tribe Library, First Book, ESD 113 Sound to Harbor Head Start/ECEAP, and Washington State Library.

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

Libraries would be a logical repository for such a database in their role as key information providers in their local communities. This project would require funding for a project manager with appropriate resources and technical support to assure the database is accurate, easy to access and navigate. The proposed project would entail:

> Year 1: Exploratory—research with local, state, tribal and national models of similar clearinghouse efforts; map existing literacy efforts; create an advisory group; develop a communication and dissemination plan; create a timeline; and develop an evaluation plan with appropriate measures.
> Years 2-3: Implementation—at the regional level; explore and plan for statewide feasibility; explore and secure funding sources for statewide implementation.
> Year 4: Launch statewide clearinghouse and secure funding for ongoing support to keep the database relevant, up-to-date and easy to use with emerging technologies for intended audiences.

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):

Should the Washington State Literacy Clearinghouse be funded, evidence of success in achieving its goals would be identified by:
- robust use of the database by multiple users;
- increased networking and collaboration among and between literacy advocates and programs;
- increased access to literacy research and practices that improve literacy of our citizens and students;
- ongoing, sustainable support and funding of this project.

Ideally, funding this proposal could result in increased literacy rates in Washington State enabling all citizens to become literate participants in the diverse quality of life our state has to offer.

General Information

Which library types are intended as the primary beneficiaries of this project? (check all that apply)
X_____ Academic (private and public two-year and four-year academic institutions)
X_____ Public (libraries organized under RCW 27.12)
X_____ School (private and public K-12 schools)
X_____ Special (business and industry, law, medical, other government, tribal, other)
If other, specify:

The intended beneficiaries of the project? (check the primary beneficiary)
X_____ Library staff
X_____ Library users or potential library users
X_____ A specific group of staff or users, or a potential user group. Name the target
    beneficiaries(s): Public citizens, students, library staff, policy makers,
    philanthropic organizations via access to literacy development projects or
    support via the internet and/or library
    (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):
X_____ User training
X_____ Staff training
_____ Grants
X_____ Development of best practices
X_____ Demonstration of emerging technology or practices
X_____ Other, please explain: program manager with technical support to develop
and maintain database.

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue? 4 years to
develop with the goal of ongoing implementation funded by our state legislature.
(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.)

Which Library Council priorities support the idea you are submitting (check all that apply)
X_____ Increase information access for the people of Washington
X_____ Advance literacy in the state of Washington
X_____ Demonstrate how libraries educate, empower and elevate people, communities,
and democratic society by providing free and equitable access to all types of information.
X_____ Serve underserved, unserved, and culturally diverse communities and
populations
X_____ Enhance the skills and knowledge of library staff
_____ Preserve library collections