

Priority:	Education	Lead Agency:	Library
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating	Program Contact:	Renea Arnold
Related Programs:			
Frameworks:	Early Childhood Framework		

Executive Summary

Ready to Learn improves the reading readiness of children entering kindergarten by providing early-literacy information, hands-on activities and modeling to adults who live and work with children. Services are directed toward children who are at risk of low literacy and whose families & caregivers aren't native English speakers.

Program Description

Library staff partner with County departments & community agencies to provide educational workshops & mentoring in English, Russian, Spanish & Vietnamese to caregivers, early childhood educators & parents to increase their ability to facilitate children's early-literacy skills. Services are provided in four primary ways: 1. Parent Education Workshops teach parents literacy activities to do with their children. An early-childhood parent educator visits social service agencies, teen parent classes, substance abuse programs, childcare centers & schools. 2. Childcare Provider Education Workshops and On-Site Mentoring teach caregivers interactive ways to support children's early literacy, getting them ready for success in school. Six different workshops that meet requirements for State & childcare certification standards are offered to support a community goal to improve childcare quality. 3. Early Literacy Storytime Experiences for infants, toddlers & preschoolers model for parents & caregivers in libraries, childcare homes, schools, County health centers, Head Starts, parent-child development centers & social agencies how to develop children's literacy. 4. Collections of children's books are provided to childcare homes & centers, & public agencies.

Program Justification

Ready to Learn links to the Education Map, Factor 1 "Prepared to Learn at All Ages" & the Early Childhood Framework. From birth to age 3, a child's brain grows to 90% of its adult size. Children who receive too little or inappropriate stimulation in this critical period face long-term difficulties learning. Early literacy -- the first steps in learning to read -- begins in the home, long before a child enters school. In fact, knowledge of alphabet letters at entry into kindergarten is a strong predictor of reading ability in 10th grade. The ability to read does not develop naturally, but depends on the experiences provided by the adults in a child's life. "Parents and caregivers play roles of inestimable importance in laying the foundation for learning to read." (Becoming a Nation of Readers) Through Ready to Learn, the Library's skilled & trained staff teach parents & caregivers how to prepare their children for learning to read. Ready to Learn is designed to reduce the 28% of our County's 5-year-olds who enter school unprepared for learning to read. (The Oregon 2002 Kindergarten Readiness to Learn Report.) Evaluations showed that 1. parents gained clear knowledge in phonetic awareness, the role of story telling and how and why to point out conventions of print as they read with their children; and 2. Childcare providers more often encouraged children in emergent writing activities and played games with letter sounds.

Performance Measures

In FY06: 4,600 parents & caregivers and 9,000 children under age 6 will receive early literacy education opportunities; and the majority will report positive behavior change between pre- and post-service surveys; and at least 100,000 books will be delivered to caregivers' sites. We will continue to serve families who are low-income and for whom English is a second language.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

FY04: 4,613 parents & caregivers and 8,933 mainly low-income children under age 6 received early literacy education opportunities; and the majority reported positive behavior change on post-service surveys; and 104,362 books were delivered to caregivers' sites. FY05: Results will remain consistent.

Program Mandate: 1 Mandated Program & Funding Level

Measure No. 26-36 "Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy for County Library Services",
November 2002 General Election -

The Library levy will:

Keep Multnomah County libraries open six days a week for an average of 53-58 hours each; Restore Monday hours at Central Library and the four busiest branches; Keep Central Library and neighborhood libraries open Sunday afternoons; Continue library services for young and school-age children -- story hours for babies and toddlers, homework help, Summer Reading and services for children in childcare; Continue services for seniors, job seekers, small businesses, those speaking English as a second language, delivery to homebound; Buy library books, magazines and other materials.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2005	2005	2006	2006
Personnel	\$0	\$444,160	\$128,950	\$258,633
Contracts	\$0	\$127,126	\$20,461	\$41,039
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$73,900	\$29,128	\$58,423
Internal Services	\$0	\$29,309	\$3,224	\$6,467
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$674,495	\$181,763	\$364,562
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$62,035	\$114,566
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$19,498	\$39,108
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$81,533	\$153,674
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$674,495	\$263,296	\$518,236
Program Total:	\$674,495		\$781,532	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.75	3.75
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$2,706	\$0	\$1,218	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$544,830
Total Revenue:	\$2,706	\$0	\$1,218	\$544,830

Explanation of Revenues

The Admin revenue allocated to this program offer represents a pro-rated share of Library Levy taxes (54%) and library-generated revenues such as book fines, interest earnings, Library Fund balance, and user charges for services provided to Library patrons (13%).

General Fund revenue is about 33% of the Library's total revenue.

For this program offering, \$90,000 is expected from the State's "Ready to Read" per capita funding and \$40,000 from a federal Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant received from the State Library.

Significant Program Changes

Reduction of 1.0 FTE; restoration is possible pending Library Foundation funding.