

Priority: Education
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Library
Program Contact: Cathy Schneider

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

BOOKS 2 U seeks to improve the literacy skills of elementary & middle school students by providing students in public schools, SUN sites, other after-school care sites, and summer programs with book collections & reading motivation programs. BOOKS 2 U serves schools where high percentages of students are not meeting state reading benchmarks and communities where a high percentage of students qualify for free and/or reduced lunch.

Program Description

Library staff and volunteers introduce students to high interest books through booktalking programs and through providing paperback copies of the books being promoted. BOOKS 2 U also introduces Multnomah County Library as an educational partner and significant resource by attending and presenting at parent and family night programs; providing children served with library cards; and promoting the library's summer reading program and the neighborhood library & its services. BOOKS 2 U current serves 90% of the eligible elementary schools in the county and 30% of the eligible middle school programs. BOOKS 2 U currently serves 89% of the eligible SUN schools.

Program Justification

According to the "Public Library's Role in Student Success: A Planning Grant to Determine Best Practices for Multnomah County Library" (2002), the wide disparity in school funding among Multnomah County districts, as well as among schools within the same district, leaves the majority of students without adequate access to quality books. Many of these schools serve low income children from homes with no books and they are unable to visit a public library. BOOKS 2 U targets schools with student populations that have the greatest need for access to library books, and thereby helps to break down the barriers to information & materials (Education Outcome Team strategy #5) by providing books during the school day, after school, and over the summer.

By bringing books and the library's summer reading program to locations such as housing sites, parks & community centers, BOOKS 2 U supports parents and caregivers in helping children acquire the reading skills they need to succeed in school and the work place, supporting the Education Outcome Team strategy #2 to "prepare children to learn, either directly or by assisting parents and caregivers."

Studies show that the number of minutes spent in out-of-school reading correlates positively with reading achievement, since students spend 7,800 hours outside of school vs. 900 hours in school. BOOKS 2 U enables schools, children and families to have easy access to books and motivational reading programs that encourage out-of-school reading on a regular basis, supporting Education Outcome Team strategies 3 & 4 ("Promote reading at grade level by third grade" and "Promote student performance beyond the fifth grade, targeting students who are performing below standards").

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Youth served (duplicated)	20,879	23,084	23,084	24,500
Outcome	% of schools served that show improvement in 3rd & 5th grade reading scores	60%	60%	60%	60%
Output	# of federal summer food sites and housing sites served in summer.	10	54	54	65

Performance Measure - Description

Outcome measure: Based on annual state reading scores.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

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	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$0	\$237,782	\$93,274	\$165,822
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$77,002	\$29,311	\$52,109
Internal Services	\$0	\$4,992	\$4,476	\$7,957
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$319,776	\$127,061	\$225,888
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$21,082	\$37,479
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$8,261	\$14,685
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$29,343	\$52,164
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$319,776	\$156,404	\$278,052
Program Total:	\$319,776		\$434,456	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$1,070	\$0	\$1,395	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$155,009	\$278,052
Total Revenue:	\$1,070	\$0	\$156,404	\$278,052

Explanation of Revenues

The Admin revenue allocated to this program offer represents a pro-rated share of Library Levy taxes (57%) and library-generated revenues such as book fines, interest earnings, Library Fund balance, and user charges for services provided to Library patrons (7%). General Fund revenue represents about 36% of the Library's total revenue.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:

part of offer 80004, Tools for School Success.

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