

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

Lead Agency: Library
Program Contact: Renea Arnold

Program Characteristics: Measure 5 Education

Executive Summary

Early Childhood Resources (ECR) improves the reading readiness of children entering kindergarten by enhancing their parents and caregivers knowledge and skills of early literacy and brain development, hands-on literacy activities, and demonstrations of the best way to share books with their children. Services are directed toward families whose children are at risk of low literacy.

Program Description

ECR staff, who are trained in child development and early reading research, visit parents, teen parents, and caregivers in community agencies, county programs, public schools, Head Start centers, childcare centers, family childcare homes, treatment facilities, or any other location serving adults with young children, birth to age 5. Staff members provide information, books, and support to increase parents' and caregivers' ability to prepare preschool children for reading. Classes, taught in English, Spanish, Russian, and Vietnamese, show adults how to read and talk with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers so that children develop the pre-reading skills they need before they enter kindergarten. Thousands of quality children's books are delivered to centers and homes.

Program Justification

This program offer links to MC's newly revised Early Childhood Framework, Goal D: "All children benefit from developmentally appropriate active learning opportunities." From birth to age 3, children go through a critical window for brain development that supports literacy. Reading, talking, and singing with children during this sensitive time determines a child's future as a reader. Many parents and caregivers don't know how early this window opens — and closes — and what a tremendous impact simple actions can have on their children's future ability to read. Children must have early experiences with language, books, and tools for writing to become successful readers. Of the 5,000 babies born in Multnomah County each year, Oregon Department of Education estimates that 1,000 of these babies will enter kindergarten at risk for low literacy. The most vulnerable children are those who live in poverty, speak English as a second language, have few books in their homes, and whose mothers have limited education and low literacy. ECR partners with county and community groups to reach these parents on-site and show them easy ways to help their children gain these pre-reading skills during these most important years. Program evaluations show that parents, teen parents, and caregivers gain clear knowledge and concrete skills to facilitate their children's preparedness.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY06-07)	Current Year Purchased (FY07-08)	Current Year Estimate (FY07-08)	Next Year Offer (FY08-09)
Output	Parents, teen parents and caregivers served	5,598	5,200	4,500	5,500
Outcome	% of teen parents who read aloud to child more often after ECR presentations	47.0%	33.0%	52.0%	45.0%
Output	Children served	9,117	12,000	10,000	12,000
Output	Books delivered	94,900	200,000	100,000	110,000

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Measure No. 26-81 "Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services", November 2006 General Election – The levy language reads: "Continue programs for school age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, summer reading, literacy services for children in child care, programs for teens; Help teachers and students use library resources; Provide homework helpers to assist children with school work; Maintain free access to information; Update books and materials; Continue books delivery to homebound seniors and nursing home residents; Open planned libraries in underserved neighborhoods of East County and North Portland; Keep libraries open; Maintain current hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2008	2008	2009	2009
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$0	\$443,954	\$0	\$447,764
Contracts	\$0	\$48,400	\$0	\$26,500
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$118,050	\$0	\$95,900
Internal Services	\$0	\$18,536	\$0	\$18,321
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$628,940	\$0	\$588,485
Administration	\$0	\$172,267	\$0	\$229,972
Program Support	\$0	\$72,831	\$0	\$82,285
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$245,098	\$0	\$312,257
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$874,038	\$0	\$900,742
Program Total:	\$874,038		\$900,742	
Program FTE	0.00	5.50	0.00	5.50
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,742
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,742

Explanation of Revenues

The Library Fund revenue allocated to this program offer represents a pro-rated share of Library Levy taxes (66%) and library-generated revenues such as book fines, interest earnings, and user charges for services provided to Library patrons (6%). General Fund revenue represents about 28% of the Library's total revenue.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #80006, Early Childhood Resources
No significant changes.