

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

Lead Agency: Library
Program Contact: Cathy Schneider

Program Characteristics: Measure 5 Education

Executive Summary

BOOKS 2 U improves the literacy skills of elementary and middle school students by providing students in public schools, after-school care sites, and summer programs with book collections and 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

BOOKS 2 U staff and volunteers introduce students to high interest books through booktalking programs and through providing paperback copies of books being promoted. Thousands of paperback books are provided each year to schools, SUN programs, other after-school care sites, and summer programs served by BOOKS 2 U. 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 library cards to children served; and promoting the Library's Summer Reading program, and the neighborhood library and its services. BOOKS 2 U currently serves 95% of the eligible elementary schools in the county, 89% of the eligible middle school programs, and 90% of the eligible SUN schools.

Program Justification

According to the Oregon State Library's 2007 Quality Education Model (QEM) Report, only 1% of Multnomah County schools meet the QEM standards for adequate school library staffing and expenditures on books and other library resources (down 5% from 2006), leaving many students without adequate access to quality books. Many of these schools serve low income children from homes with no books and who are unable to visit the public library. BOOKS 2 U targets schools with student populations that have the greatest need for access to library books, and helps break down barriers to academic success (Strategy #5) by providing books during the school day, after school, and over the summer.

BOOKS 2 U supports parents and caregivers in helping children acquire the reading skills they need to succeed in school and the workplace (Strategy #2) by bringing books and the Library's Summer Reading program to locations such as housing sites, free lunch programs, academic summer schools, and parks and community centers.

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. The American Library Association in a review of independent reading stated "Students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not." BOOKS 2 U enables schools, children, and families to have access to books and motivational reading programs that encourage out-of-school reading on a regular basis, supporting Strategies 3 & 4 ("Promote reading at grade level by third grade" and "Promote student performance beyond fifth grade, targeting students who are performing below standards").

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	Youth served in school day programs (unduplicated)	10,000	8,000	9,000	10,000
Outcome	% of schools served that show improvement in 3rd & 5th grade reading scores	30.0%	68.0%	60.0%	63.0%
Output	# of federal summer food sites and housing sites served in the summer	65	70	70	75

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	\$255,501	\$0	\$272,229
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$90,000	\$0	\$102,700
Internal Services	\$0	\$10,314	\$0	\$10,242
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$355,815	\$0	\$389,171
Administration	\$0	\$59,996	\$0	\$80,705
Program Support	\$0	\$24,277	\$0	\$27,428
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$84,273	\$0	\$108,133
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$440,088	\$0	\$497,304
Program Total:	\$440,088		\$497,304	
Program FTE	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$497,304
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$497,304

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: #80005, Books 2 U
No significant changes.