



## State Library of Oregon

### Ready to Read Grant Program

### 2018 Annual Report

#### Purpose

Legally established public libraries in Oregon receive state funds through the Ready to Read grant program to create, develop, and improve early literacy and/or summer reading projects for youth from birth to 14 years old. Libraries are encouraged, but not required, to spend state funds on three best practices in library youth services: early literacy training for caregivers, summer reading activities for youth, and outreach to underserved youth.

#### Outcomes

The intended outcomes for Ready to Read grant projects include:

- Young children develop the six early literacy skills by the time they start kindergarten.
- Adults enjoy reading, singing, talking, writing, and playing with their young children regularly to help them develop early literacy skills.
- Youth maintain or improve their literacy skills over the summer.
- Youth demonstrate their love of reading and learning by choosing to engage in these activities during their free time over the summer.
- Adults enjoy spending time engaging in literacy activities with youth over the summer to help them develop literacy skills.

#### Funding and distribution

Before state funds are distributed, libraries submit a Ready to Read grant application to describe which outcomes are being targeted and how the project will help youth and families achieve the outcomes. At the conclusion of the yearly grant cycle, libraries report how grant funds were spent and the outcomes met through their projects. Of the 133 libraries funded in 2018, 132 submitted reports.



In 2018, a total of \$731,506 in General Funds were distributed to 133 of 134 eligible libraries. This is an average of 97¢ per youth living within the jurisdiction of a legally established public library. Each \$1 in state funds leveraged \$1.88 in local funds.

State Library staff use a statutory funding formula that distributes 80% of the total state funds based on the number of children served and 20 percent based on the square mileage in each library's jurisdiction to calculate how much money each library receives. In 2018, the largest Ready to Read grant awarded was \$107,500, the average award was \$5,500, and 51 minimum grants of \$1,000 were awarded.

### **Early Literacy outcomes**

*#1 Young children develop the six early literacy skills by the time they start kindergarten.*

*#2 Adults enjoy reading, singing, talking, writing, and playing with their young children regularly to help them develop early literacy skills.*

Libraries funded a variety of projects to meet early literacy outcomes. Outreach storytimes were held for Head Starts, preschool providers, and other community organizations serving youth and families. Since the brain grows fastest from birth to age 5, some libraries created Welcome Baby kits with resources for new parents to help support literacy habits. Libraries work with local partners, including hospitals and health care sites, as well as the Department of Human Services or the Migrant Education program to ensure care providers making home visits can share library resources with families in their home settings. The grant-funded early literacy projects contribute to building literacy in children across Oregon communities, making them be better prepared and ready for kindergarten.

### **2018 Early Literacy outcome highlights**

- 65 libraries spent grant funds on early literacy projects that affected 94,475 children aged 0-5, and 33,458 parents and caregivers.
- 70% of these projects included early literacy training for parents, caregivers, and other family members who care for little ones aged 0-5.
- 83% of these projects were completed in partnership with community organizations like Head Start, school districts, or Early Learning hubs to reach underserved populations.



<b>Outcome achieved</b>	<b>Libraries reporting that most participating children achieved the outcome</b>	<b>Libraries reporting that about half the children achieved the outcome</b>	<b>Libraries reporting that some children achieved the outcome</b>
Children aged 0-6 develop early literacy skills	70%	22%	8%

### **Early Literacy projects in their own words**

**The following is from Crook County Library’s report on their early literacy outreach project, which focused on community partnership:**

We have been fortunate to partner with nearly every preschool, daycare, and early childhood education center in Crook County. The most rewarding and impactful partnerships we had were with Larson Learning Center and Mountain Star Relief Nursery; these organizations primarily serve children who are identified as being at risk for abuse or neglect, or who have other risk factors present in their lives that can impact their school readiness. Our children's librarian reported that children at these centers often made huge strides in their pre-literacy skills over the course of the outreach year; by May, most children knew how to listen to a story, could follow plots and illustrations, could demonstrate basic comprehension by making predictions about the plot of a story, and could demonstrate an understanding of the physical mechanics of a book (holding a book, turning the pages, etc.). Outreach to these organizations will continue to be a cornerstone of our efforts to reach children ages 0-6 in Crook County.



**The following is from Ledding Library's early literacy outreach project, supporting teen parents' ability to boost their children's literacy:**

After an early literacy talk with the teen parents at PACE in their classroom:  
Yadira (teen parent at PACE): "Thank you so much for coming today and giving us information on why it's so important to read to our kids, and thank you for bringing us books for our children. My son is going to love this! Thank you." In answer to the survey question, "What did you like most" about the program, two teen parents at PACE said: 1. "I liked how we received information on how to help our children know more words by reading to them." 2. "That you learn a lot about how your child's brain develops and how reading to them really helps."



*Storytime in Jefferson County.  
2018 photo courtesy of Jefferson County Library District's Youth Services Specialist.*



### Summer Reading Outcomes

*#1 Youth maintain or improve their literacy skills over the summer.*

*#2 Youth demonstrate their love of reading and learning by choosing to engage in these activities during their free time over the summer.*

*#3 Adults enjoy spending time engaging in literacy activities with youth over the summer to help them develop literacy skills.*

Libraries again funded a variety of summer reading projects to meet summer reading outcomes. Most libraries spent state funds to create summer reading programs that include an incentive to motivate youth to read during the summer, enrichment activities for youth to practice building literacies, fun cultural programs that bring families and community together, and outreach to engage underserved youth who have a difficult time participating in summer reading at the library. Most libraries partner with multiple community members and organizations to accomplish these projects. The summer reading projects libraries developed with grant funds help ensure children in their community maintain their current grade levels in reading and mitigate some effects of summer learning loss.

### 2018 Summer Reading outcome highlights

- 113 libraries spent grant funding on summer reading programs that affected 202,695 youth and 56,936 adults who participated.
- 75% of libraries partnered with at least one other community organization to implement their summer reading program.
- 40% of libraries reported adults regularly spent time engaging in literacy activities with youth to help youth develop literacy skills over the summer



Outcomes achieved	Libraries reporting that most participating children achieved the outcome	Libraries reporting that about half the children achieved the outcome	Libraries reporting that some children achieved the outcome
Youth aged 0-14 maintain or improve their literacy skills over the summer	48%	38%	14%



*Dig Into Oregon summer program at Baker County Library.  
2018 photo courtesy of Baker County Library District's Youth Services Coordinator.*



**Summer reading projects in their own words**

**The following is from Multnomah County Library’s summer reading project, in which they focus on community partnership to broaden their impact:**

We have been working with Home Forward, formerly the Housing Authority, to develop a community game for their housing sites with recreation coordinators. In 2018, we served 15 sites with prizes and game boards, and are planning even more collaboration in 2019. We are working on a training for Home Forward site staff to understand what literacy looks like and how to encourage a reading culture in their communities. While we may also include outreach visits to the highest need sites, this collaboration allows us to extend our reach without expanding our staff.

**The following is from Tigard Public Library’s summer reading project, with a focus on reaching beyond library walls to families who may not be able to get to the physical library location.**

With Ready to Read funds, we created a new “Books to Go” outreach collection of books for babies, kids, and teens. We brought this collection when we went to outreach locations, including weekly visits to free food sites. Kids could choose books to take home and read, regardless of whether they had a library card, could get to the library, or if they were able to return items. This made it possible for more kids to successfully participate in summer reading. 274 books were distributed at outreach visits this summer. Readers who completed family literacy activities (such as listening to an audiobook together, or taking turns reading a book out loud to each other) got to choose a book from a pre-selected box of outreach books to donate to a community organization such as the WIC clinic or the DHS office. At the end of the summer, we brought batches of books to our community partners, making more books available to kids who may not have an easy time getting to the library. For some kids and families, it was a highlight of summer reading, noting in their survey response that they enjoyed “picking out a book for another kid,” and that they “liked how we could donate books to the community.” 562 readers participated in family literacy activities, building not only family engagement around books and reading, but also supporting access to books for more kids in our community.



### ***Outstanding Project Award Winners***

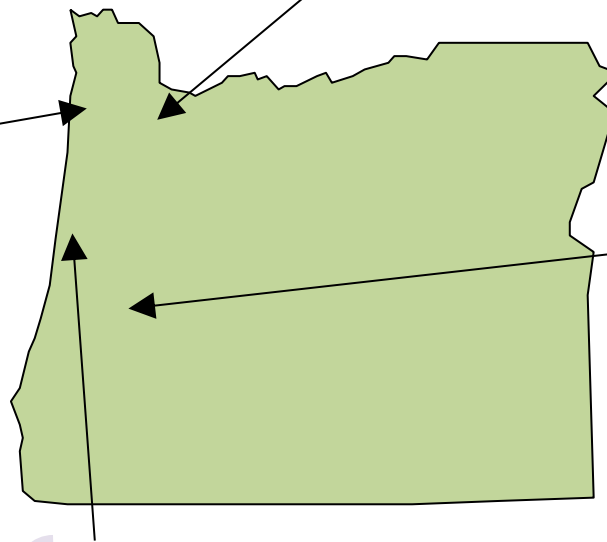
Each year the State Library recognizes libraries that implement outstanding state-funded projects.

The criteria for an outstanding project are:

- Most participants achieved all the outcomes
- Established a good model for other libraries
- Developed strong partnerships to improve services to underserved youth, or
- Implemented an innovative project.

**Ledding Library** partners with 7 summer lunch sites, summer school programs, and apartment complexes in their community to hold summer reading programs at locations outside the library, allowing youth with limited transportation the opportunity to participate in summer reading where they can.

**Tillamook County Library** partners with their hospital and health department to make sure every baby born in Tillamook County receives a New Baby bag with a board book, a rhyming booklet, and an invitation to the library. The library is able to track how many invitations bring families to baby storytimes, and every Tillamook baby gets a book!



**Lane Library District (Creswell Library)** works to ensure every family's needs were met. Library staff modified their summer reading program to better support their families with early learners. They offered early literacy focused reading journals in which adults could keep track of ways they played, sang, talked, and wrote with their little ones throughout the summer. This strategy doubled the number of library families doing early literacy activities together.

**Toledo Public Library** connects kids to the Oregon Battle of the Books during Summer Reading by connecting OBOB books to a challenge activity like marshmallow catapults or spaghetti towers- the kind of activity where kids are learning without knowing it! They also brought Summer Reading outside the library by connecting with their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Summer program and offering programming there.





**State Library of Oregon**  
**Library Support and Development Services**

For more information, contact:

Greta Bergquist, Youth Services Consultant, 503-378-2528, [greta.bergquist@state.or.us](mailto:greta.bergquist@state.or.us)

Susan Westin, Program Manager, 503-378-5435, [susan.b.westin@state.or.us](mailto:susan.b.westin@state.or.us)