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California Student Author Project

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Agenda

Today's Topics

- Overview
- Who Can Apply?
- Deadlines
- Project Scope
- Evaluation
- Application
- Attachments
- Questions?

Overview

Project Goal: plan, implement, and evaluate a writing program for public school age children from extremely low-income communities.

Funded by AB 1809 (higher education trailer bill).

Text can be found at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=4.&title=2.&part=29.&chapter=9.&article=10.



Overview

Why? *The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:*

- (a) The trend of low-income youth struggling to become proficient in reading and writing is a narrative that is passed down from era to era.
- (b) According to The Literacy Project, there are currently 45 million Americans who are functionally illiterate and unable to read above a 5th grade level. In California, 25 percent of the state's 6 million pupils are unable to perform basic reading skills.
- (c) According to the organization DoSomething.org, nearly 85 percent of the juveniles who face trial in the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate, proving that there is a close relationship between illiteracy and crime.
- (d) Over half of California pupils failed to meet English standards based on Spring 2017 standardized test results, a performance that remained essentially flat compared to the previous year.
- (e) About 49 percent of pupils statewide met or exceeded English standards on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress in 2017, which is administered to public school pupils at certain grade levels each year. The same proportion of California pupils met English standards in 2016.
- (f) For decades, generational illiteracy has hindered the careers, futures, and hopes of many pupils and their families.



Overview

Total funding for the project is

- **\$500,000 for FY 19-20** and
- **\$500,000 for FY 20-21.**

An applicant may apply for part or all of the funding. Applicants will submit a single application for a two-year project. The second year of funding is contingent on successful completion of Year One.

Who Can Apply?

- Nonprofit organizations
 - Public libraries
 - Local educational entities
- ...that have demonstrated experience in providing similar literacy programs to children in extremely low-income communities.

Deadlines

The application period closes **Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 5 pm**. You must submit the application **online** with the proper attachments.

Project Scope

The program will be provided to public school-age children who are eligible for free and reduced cost lunch.

Project Scope

The project will serve students during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

At least 1,000 California students will be served. (If multiple projects are funded, this is a cumulative total, not a requirement for each individual project.)

Project Scope

The program will be designed to accomplish these goals:

- Improve English language skills
- Improve academic performance
- Build healthy relationships with the community
- Equip participants with critical life skills
- Promote positive life choices
- Increase literacy, reading and writing among program participants.

Project Scope

Grant recipients will establish a student author program to provide participants an opportunity to write, edit, and promote a short story or other forms of literature.

Project Scope

A grant recipient should provide regular, sequential student author workshops that **parallel** or **complement** school calendars, such as quarterly, semester, or summer and vacation-intensive programs.

Project Scope

The projects will include, but are not limited to, the following components:

- (1) **Writing and editing**, including **instruction** in the skills necessary for **creative writing**.
- (2) **Publishing** an anthology.
- (3) **Marketing**, media, and **community relations**, including **instruction** in book brand development and entrepreneurship.
- (4) Individual and group **presentations**.
- (5) Community-based **book signing events**.



Project Scope

Grant recipients are expected to implement programming that does all of the following:

- (1) Fosters **critical thinking** in student authors.
- (2) Teaches students to practice **effective problem solving**.
- (3) Instructs students on creating an **outline** for their writing project.
- (4) Teaches students to **develop promotional** and advertising tools.
- (5) Provides students with an **understanding** of how to create a literary **character** and an engaging **plot**.

Project Evaluation

The grantee must track and report output data and outcomes data.

- **Outputs** tell the story of what happened, such as number of students served or number of workshops or classes held.
- **Outcomes** demonstrate the result of those outputs, such as the level of achievement that occurred because of the outputs, or changes in behavior or knowledge.

Project Evaluation

Evaluation: Project plans must include an evaluation plan designed to measure the following outcomes in students:

- Improve English language skills.
- Improve academic performance.
- Build healthy relationships with the community.
- Equip participants with critical life skills.
- Promote positive life choices.
- Increase literacy, reading, and writing among program participants.

Application

Applications must be completed online and are due by **5 pm on Thursday, April 18, 2019.**

Please review the application thoroughly and prepare your materials before you begin. Your director must know and approve of the application. You do not have to complete the application in a single sitting. You may find it helpful to draft answers in a separate document and paste them into the online application.



Application

Are partnerships required?

No, but they are encouraged, and there is a place to list partners in the application and include up to two letters of commitment or support. A partner might include a local housing authority, a school (if applicant is a nonprofit), or other agencies serving children and families.

Attachments

Applicants will need to complete a timeline and budget as separate documents and attach these to the application. Templates are available with the application package at <http://www.library.ca.gov/Services/To-Public/Student-Author/> or click on the Grants button at www.library.ca.gov.



Questions?

Please contact Bev Schwartzberg, Library Development Services, California State Library, Beverly.Schwartzberg@library.ca.gov.

Applications and project information are available at www.library.ca.gov.

Thank you!