

**Brief Grant Proposal for New Projects
Library Services and Technology Act FFY2012**

This form is available for download in Microsoft Word on our web site via:
<http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/LD/grantmainalt.shtml>. Proposals not meeting the following conditions will be returned. The form must not exceed this cover page and two pages of proposal content. A page is defined as one side of a sheet of paper. Use 12 point Times New Roman with one inch margins. Do not alter the format of this form. The deadline for receipt of this proposal is **5:00 pm on Friday April 22, 2011. Use form Appendix D if applying for a second or third year of funding.**

General Information

Project Title: Homework Help @ Multnomah County Library

Applicant: Multnomah County Library

Address: 205 N.E. Russell, Portland, OR 97212

Contact Person: Katie O'Dell, School-Age Services Manager Phone: 503.988.6002

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Fiscal Agent (if different than Applicant):

Authorized by: Vailey Oehlke

Title: Director of Libraries

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE INDICATE THE ANTICIPATED LENGTH OF YOUR GRANT PROJECT:

(Check applicable boxes)

THIS IS THE 1st YEAR OF A ONE YEAR GRANT PROJECT.
 TWO YEAR
 THREE YEAR

For projects that are anticipated to be multi-year projects be sure to include an estimate of the funds anticipated to be needed for future years in the Section 4 budget discussion and Section 5 grid.

THIS IS PRIORITY 2 OF THIS ORGANIZATION'S PROPOSALS.

This form must be received at the State Library no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, April 22, 2011. Faxed copies will not be accepted.** Mail or deliver **one copy** of your proposal to:

Library Development Services
Oregon State Library
250 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3950

As a courtesy, the State Library asks that you email an electronic copy of your proposal, in rtf or Word format, to ann.reed@state.or.us. This does not substitute for the signed, mailed copy.

Project Proposal (insert your text after each section)

Section 1. Provide the exact text of the single most relevant goal and high-level outcome from the *Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year State Plan* that will be addressed by the grant project.

Goal #5: Using Technology to Expand Access and to Increase Efficiency

High-Level Outcome: Access to information is enhanced through the use of cost-effective technologies to deliver information/content

Section 2. Describe the problem that will be addressed by the proposed grant project.

Multnomah County Library serves an estimated 116,471 students ages five to 18 (*American Community Survey 2009*) who attend eight public school systems, numerous private schools or are homeschooled. The delivery of library services to students is guided by a key priority, "success in school: support for K-12 student learning," which reflects the library's commitment that students have the services, materials and resources they need to succeed in school and to improve their literacy. To this end, the library offers Homework Center, a one-stop selection of electronic databases, homework Web sites, and access to free online help from real tutors. While this expansive set of online resources may sound appealing to adults, it has become less relevant to young people who normally frequent Facebook, Wikipedia, Google, YouTube, email, and chat, according to IMLS-funded findings from focus groups conducted by New York City's three public library systems in 2007. "Young adults expect to have content delivered to them where they are and to be able to repackage it and push it out into their own social sphere." Given the continually evolving environment in which the library operates, LSTA assistance is needed to reassess and reimagine how the use of social media impacts the delivery of school supports, and to investigate the answers to a number of emerging information literacy issues. For example, does the Homework Center site's more complicated search features encourage students to instead indiscriminately search Google for answers to their homework questions? What role does ease of use and web environment play in a student's search for authoritative information? The 2007 findings reveal that students use web resources recommended to them by their teachers. If a teacher doesn't provide a list of resources, students turn to their parents or their friends for help before asking a librarian. Further, there is a lack of recent assessment data about the features and content that teachers, parents, and students expect to see in any recommended homework resources.

Section 3. Describe the proposed solution that the project will implement. Indicate the project goal, and the quantified objectives that will be used to measure whether the goal is accomplished. Describe briefly the activities that will be undertaken to meet each objective.

The goal of *Homework Help* is to identify and evaluate the homework reference needs of students, educators, parents, and librarians for the purpose of designing an integrated homework help tool that will effectively respond to young people's needs and experience using new digital technologies. During the first year of this two-year project, we will accomplish three objectives: 1) hire a full-time Project Coordinator (part-time in year two) to help us learn more about the online habits and behaviors of students ages eight and older; 2) contract with a consultant to facilitate four focus groups (students, teachers, school administrators, and parents) in order to

assess young people’s information-gathering tendencies, research needs, and youth/adult expectations; and 3) contract for culturally appropriate translation and interpretation services to encourage project participation by community members with limited English proficiency. Activities include: holding focus groups; conducting best practices research; and crafting a recommended plan for the redesign of integrated homework help. In year two, we will promote the project to target constituencies; and work with a user interface designer or web content creator to design, test, and implement an appropriate response to the findings uncovered during year one. This may be a new suite of digital tools for homework help (e.g., apps, customizable Web portal) or a recasted, mobile web environment that can be used by students to successfully complete their homework no matter where they are that may be a more convenient and useful method of accessing authoritative, high-quality online homework assistance.

Section 4. Provide specifics about the project budget.

In year one, the total project budget is \$182,538. An LSTA grant of \$121,455 is being sought to pay the wages (\$64,304) and 59% in benefits (\$38,106) for a full-time Project Coordinator. Travel (\$60) consists of interpreters' travel at a quoted flat rate. Contractual services (\$16,000) are comprised of a \$15,000 contract for a needs assessment consultant at \$150/hr x 100 hours, and a \$1,000 contract for translation/interpretation services with IRCO for assistance in four languages. Indirect charges (\$2,985) have been calculated at the approved rate of 2.52%. Local cash (\$317) consists of Travel (\$167) for 240 miles in project local travel reimbursed at the current federal rate of 50 cents/mi, TriMet bus passes to encourage youth attendance at the focus group, and Supplies (\$150) for food and refreshments at focus groups. Local In-kind support (\$60,766) is contributed through a total of 2,888 hours in wages (\$38,637) by 15 staff of assorted classifications and their calculated benefits of 51-61% (\$21,829), and Supplies (\$300) for outreach fliers and invitations to recruit focus group participants, available in English and four other languages. A grant of \$135,874 will be sought in year two to cover the salary and benefits (\$52,534) of a half-time Project Coordinator, an estimated contract with a user interface designer (\$80,000), and indirect charges (\$3,340) at 2.52%.

Section 5. Proposed project budget summary (Use this format – do not alter it):
(Double click on the table to enter data. Before closing the table, be sure to scroll to the top of it)

Item	Local Cash	Local In-kind	LSTA	Total
Personnel		\$38,637	\$64,304	\$102,941
Benefits		\$21,829	\$38,106	\$59,935
Travel	\$167	\$0	\$60	\$227
Equipment				\$0
Supplies	\$150	\$300	\$0	\$450
Contractual			\$16,000	\$16,000
Library Materials				\$0
Total Direct Charges	\$317	\$60,766	\$118,470	\$179,553
<i>Indirect Charges</i>	\$0	\$0	\$2,985	\$2,985
Total Budget	\$317	\$60,766	\$121,455	\$182,538

Proposed second year LSTA amount: \$135,874 Proposed third year LSTA amount: N/A