

**Brief Grant Proposal for Continuing Projects
Library Services and Technology Act FFY2013**

This form is available on our Web site via: <http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/LD/grantmainalt.shtml>. Use this form only if applying for continuing grant funding. Proposals not meeting the following conditions will be returned. The form must not exceed the 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 13, 2012.**

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

Email: kodell@multcolib.org

Fiscal Agent (if different than Applicant):

Authorized by: Vailey Oehlke

Title: Director of Libraries

Signature:

Date:

Project URL (if any): <http://www.multcolib.org/homework/>

PLEASE INDICATE THE ANTICIPATED LENGTH OF YOUR GRANT PROJECT:
(Check applicable boxes)

THIS IS THE 2nd YEAR OF A TWO YEAR GRANT PROJECT
 3rd YEAR OF A THREE YEAR

For projects that are anticipated to continue another year, be sure to include an estimate of the future funds anticipated to be needed in the Section 4 budget discussion and Section 5 grid.

THIS IS PRIORITY #1_ OF THIS AGENCY'S PROPOSALS.

This form must be received at the State Library no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, April 13, 2012. 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. Briefly describe the project. Indicate the overall goal and objectives of the multi-year project.

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 experiences using new digital technologies. A full-time Project Coordinator, assisted by a Project Consultant/User Interface Designer, will deploy new tools to effectively respond to the online habits and behaviors of students ages eight and older.

Section 2. Describe the progress accomplished in the current grant year to date and justify the need for continued funding.

In March 2012, we received permission from the State Library to delay the start of *Homework Help* until May 1, due to unforeseen budgetary issues that will greatly affect staffing; there is no progress to report at this time. However, the need for continued funding remains strong. Half of the nation's 14- to 18-year-olds report they used a library computer during the last year. Multnomah County Library serves an estimated 116,471 students ages five to 18 (*2010-11 ODE Enrollment estimates*) who attend the County's public school systems, numerous private schools or are homeschooled. To support a key priority, "We prepare young minds for success," the library offers Homework Center, a one-stop selection of electronic databases, homework websites, 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. Public libraries are not in the minds of young people as a place – physical or virtual – where they can receive homework support. They also spend a great deal of time in social networking sites where they manage a wide array of personal and recreational applications such as email, music files, games, and instant messaging.

Research points to the many ways in which libraries must respond to emerging technologies and their implications for how young people learn (MacArthur Foundation, 2007). Because they are growing up in an information-rich, media-savvy environment, today's youth think and process information in a fundamentally different way than their predecessors. According to *The Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills Task Force*, as a result, there has been a sea change in consumer expectations: if you have something interesting to offer, you should be prepared to offer it however and wherever the customer wants; allow the customer to create, participate in, share, refine, save and reuse it instantly and easily; and make it accessible and affordable. *The Horizon Report 2011* indicates that "people expect to be able to work, learn, and study whenever and wherever they want... digital media literacy continues its rise in importance as a key skill in every discipline and profession." Mobiles enable ubiquitous access to information, social networks, tools for learning and productivity, and they are increasingly a user's first choice for Internet access. Mobiles also hold the promise of helping close the achievement gap. According to *PEW Mobile Access 2010* and continuing a trend first identified in 2009, minority Americans lead the way when it comes to mobile access — especially mobile access using handheld devices. Nearly two-thirds of African-Americans (64%) and Latinos (63%) are wireless internet users, and

minority Americans are significantly more likely to own a cell phone than their white counterparts (87% of blacks and Hispanics own a cell phone, compared with 80% of whites). Libraries must develop resources that respond to younger generations' expectations, providing open access to readily available digital collections, encouraging communication, and, most importantly, existing where young people live their online lives.

Section 3. Indicate the project goal for the next year. List the quantified objectives that will be used to measure whether the goal is accomplished. Describe the specific activities that will be undertaken to meet each objective.

The project goal remains the same as in year one: 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. In year two, we will accomplish three objectives: 1) employ a full-time Project Coordinator to coordinate all project activities; 2) promote the project's findings to target constituencies; and 3) 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. Design activities may result in 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. The desired outcome is a more convenient and useful method of providing access to authoritative, high-quality online homework assistance.

Section 4. Provide specifics about this proposed year's project's budget. Identify any additional resources obtained for the project.

A grant of \$158,994 is being sought in year two to cover the salary and benefits (\$105,086) of a full-time Project Coordinator; an estimated contract with a user interface designer (\$50,000), and indirect charges (\$3,908) 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		\$38,694	\$66,240	\$104,934
Benefits		\$21,693	\$38,846	\$60,539
Travel				\$0
Equipment				\$0
Supplies				\$0
Contractual			\$50,000	\$50,000
Library Materials				\$0
Total Direct Charges	\$0	\$60,387	\$155,086	\$215,473
<i>Indirect Charges</i>	\$0	\$0	\$3,908	\$3,908
Total Budget	\$0	\$60,387	\$158,994	\$219,381

Proposed third year LSTA amount: N/A