

**Full Grant Proposal
Library Services and Technology Act FFY 2014**

This form is available for download in Microsoft Word on our web site via: www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/grantmainalt.aspx. Proposals not meeting the following conditions will be returned. Use 12 point Times New Roman with one inch margins. Hard copy should be printed single-sided. Do not change the words on this form. Email a Word or PDF version of your proposal to ann.reed@state.or.us. It is fine if you are not able to include letters of recommendation or appendices in the electronic copy. The electronic copy does not substitute for the hard copy original. The deadline for receipt of the full proposal is **5:00 pm on Friday, August 16, 2013**.

Part I: General Information

1. Project title: Expanding Opportunities Program
2. Applicant: Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. (JCLI)
3. Mailing Address: 200 NW C Street, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526-2038
4. Contact person: Teresa Stover, Grants Coordinator Phone: 541-471-2931
Email: tstover@josephinelibrary.org
5. Fiscal agent (if different than applicant): NA
6. Project URL (if any): www.josephinelibrary.org (library URL; project URL to be developed)
7. U.S. Congressional District: 2nd
8. DUNS number: 964144617
9. List geographic target area to be served by the project: Josephine County
10. Estimated number of persons benefiting from the project: 25,000 (We hope than many of our 22,000 cardholders would benefit from this project, plus an additional 15 percent.)
11. Description of persons benefiting from the project:
The Expanding Opportunities Program will benefit residents of Josephine County wanting to improve their lives from their current situation – whether they’re trying to find a job, keep a job, build a career, start a business, or grow a business. This program will provide library information training, referrals with partnering community organizations, and other resources in the areas of education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

12. List partnering organizations. All partnering organizations must also sign section IV.1. See instructions for guidance on partners versus participants.

Southern Oregon Education Service District (Scott Perry, Superintendent)
Three Rivers School District (Patty Adams, Superintendent)

13. Project abstract (one paragraph):

Josephine County has lower rates of high school and college graduates and higher rates of unemployment than the rest of the state. Business enterprises can use more support to help succeed, grow, and hire more employees. The Expanding Opportunities Program seeks to meet the needs of Josephine County citizens looking to develop their prospects and improve their lives in the areas of education, employability, and entrepreneurship; specifically by partnering with local service providers and delivering information literacy training workshops on the resources and technology available through the library system. Year 1 of the program emphasizes program setup, needs assessment, and connection with partnering organizations. Year 2 will focus, refine, and grow the program offerings to meet the information literacy needs of the target audience.

14. Provide the text of the single most relevant goal from the *Five-Year State Plan 2014-2017* that will be addressed by the grant project. (See Appendix A)

Goal 4: Develop information literacy skills.

15. Briefly describe how the LSTA project will continue after the grant ends, especially noting local support.

After LSTA funding helps initiate the Expanding Opportunities Program, Josephine Community Libraries expects to grow the program into succeeding years. There will always be a need for direct services and digital literacy training in and out of the libraries related to education, workforce development, and business development.

The community will launch a library district effort when political and economic conditions are more favorable. Josephine Community Libraries has been awarded an ALA United For Libraries grant for advocacy training, and local library leaders are excited about this opportunity. The hope is for this election to take place in the next two years. When the district passes, there will be permanent funding for an Outreach Education Librarian who will coordinate the Expanding Opportunities Program. There will also be stable funding for updating related library materials, technology, and workshop curriculum materials.

Independent of the library district effort, however, is the fact that the Expanding Opportunities Program will be of keen interest to organizations in our community, largely because the program addresses the root causes of poverty and disadvantage and because it works to improve the quality of life for our residents. To certain program partners and participants, we will propose the opportunity to sponsor program continuance, citing the concrete value they have gained from the program in its first two years.

We will also continue to seek and secure grants from local and statewide funders who are also committed to economic development. With secured LSTA funding for Year 1, for example, we were awarded grants from the Josephine County/Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and the Four Way Community Foundation for technology infrastructure and from the Oregon Cultural Trust and Oregon Community Foundation for outreach efforts.

16. List letters of support for the project (name, affiliation) that are attached to this application. Do not include letters from project partners listed in #11.

Rogue Community College Library Department Chair Thomas Miller J.D., M.L.
 Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Colene Martin
 Coalition for Kids Executive Director Gina Marie Agosta

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED LENGTH OF YOUR GRANT PROJECT:

(Check applicable boxes)

THIS IS THE 1st YEAR OF A ONE YEAR GRANT PROJECT
 2nd YEAR TWO YEAR
 3rd YEAR THREE YEAR

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

THIS IS PRIORITY N/A OF THIS ORGANIZATION’S PROPOSALS

Part II: Project Budget

Proposed project budget (use this format only – do not alter):

(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			\$54,600	\$54,600
Benefits			\$6,300	\$6,300
Travel			\$1,443	\$1,443
Equipment	\$24,000			\$24,000
Supplies			\$1,000	\$1,000
Contractual		\$18,950	\$5,000	\$23,950
Library Materials	\$26,000			\$26,000
Total Direct Charges	\$50,000	\$18,950	\$68,343	\$137,293
Indirect Charges**				\$0
Total Budget	\$50,000	\$18,950	\$68,343	\$137,293

** If requesting indirect charges, you MUST attach the relevant portion of a current federally-approved indirect cost plan.

Proposed second year LSTA amount: \$68,343 Proposed third year LSTA amount: N/A

Part III: Project Narrative

(Attach additional pages. See the criteria for grant proposal evaluation in the Grant Guidelines as well as the Grant Application Instructions for more information on this section.)

A. Background of Applicant (describe the agency's ability to undertake this project)

Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. (JCLI) was born out of a dire community need which demonstrated the will of a broad base of county residents to ensure its citizens have the resources for literacy, education, and opportunities to live and thrive.

In May 2007, county government closed the entire library system due to lack of funding. By September that year, when it was clear that no government solution was forthcoming, a group of concerned citizens formed Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. as a nongovernmental nonprofit organization.

The new organization raised awareness, and started to raise private funding. The organization developed a donor model, inspired by public broadcasting, in which all residents would have free and open access to library services and programs, but contributing donors would financially support library operations.

Josephine Community Libraries entered into a contractual agreement with Josephine County to operate the library system, and this agreement included the use of the existing library buildings and collection. Josephine County also made a \$300,000 challenge grant, matching the individual and business donations the group raised.

As a result, in 2009, Josephine Community Libraries reopened all four branches one by one, and it has operated them ever since. By necessity rather than choice, this library system operates on a shoestring budget unsupported by any regular tax funding. The majority of funding comes from voluntary memberships from individuals and families in the community. Additional funding comes from business sponsorships and grants. All library services are free to all county residents, regardless of membership status.

Citizen involvement in the form of a 200-strong volunteer force -- equivalent to 18 FTEs -- is essential, because the current budget only allows for about six FTEs of staff across the four branches. Community partnerships are also vital for many of the programs and services provided, to help with sponsorships, raising awareness, in-kind services, and special expertise.

Although our libraries have limited funding, staffing, and hours, the demand from the community continues to increase, as is seen in libraries throughout Oregon. About 22,700 Josephine County residents – more than 27 percent of the population of 82,000 -- are current library cardholders. This number is growing. Each month, about 2,400 patrons check out about 24,000 items and about 300 people sign up for new library cards.

Sometimes referred to as the “miracle library,” the Josephine County library system, as managed by Josephine Community Libraries, has risen from the ashes of a catastrophic library closure. Through this unique solution of providing library services which serves as a bridge to public funding, Josephine Community Libraries has transformed adversity into

advantage to provide the vital library services that result in transforming lives in Josephine County.

Because of the credibility it has earned on the dedication to deliver library services, its core values of integrity and accountability, and its ability to forge and maintain vital community partnerships, Josephine Community Libraries is well positioned to launch the Expanding Opportunities Program. Josephine Community Libraries is recognized as a frugal and smart organization dedicated to building this community and meeting community needs.

B. Detailed statement of problem

Josephine County has an alarmingly high rate of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and unemployment. Josephine County has been federally designated as “economically depressed.” According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.8 percent of the Josephine County population in 2010 was below the poverty line, compared with 14.8 percent for all of Oregon.

Employment lags significantly behind the state and the nation. According to the Oregon Employment Department, as of June 2013, the unemployment rate was 11.3 percent, compared with a state rate of 7.9 percent and a national rate of 7.6 percent.

Education levels can also be greatly improved. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.6 percent of the population of Josephine County do not have a high school diploma. Only 16.8 percent of Josephine County residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 29 percent statewide.

Many organizations in the community are working to solve these problems. Area school districts, Rogue Community College (RCC), and other educational organizations provide classes, training, and other opportunities for learning. The Job Council and other employment services provide resources and services for job seekers. The RCC Small Business Development Center provides online resources and classes related to entrepreneurship and business development. RCC and the local computer user groups provide computer application skills training.

However, the staff of many of these organizations are not aware of the library resources they can use to help their constituents, nor can they afford to subscribe to those resources on their own. These staff are very busy people with plenty of challenges and stresses. They need a facilitator to distill and package the essentials of the relevant resources available through the library. With such a facilitator to guide them, these community leaders can be propelled into power users of the authoritative information, resources, and opportunities available. These leaders would then be able to more effectively assist their clients in achieving their goals and expanding their opportunities. Community organizations, their staff, and their clients would come to see that the library not only has valuable and relevant information and resources, but also the expertise and programs to help them improve their lives.

In addition to using other community resources, Josephine County residents seeking to expand their educational, employment, or business opportunities can greatly benefit from an awareness of the valuable resources available at their libraries. They need training to develop proficiency in using these resources to develop prospects in their lives, especially the wealth of digital programs and databases. These individuals need open access to Internet computers and a variety of digital and print resources to help them achieve their goals. In addition, while using the resources at the library, people need a point of contact with partnering community organizations so they can be aware of and access even more resources.

In spite of limited hours and a bare-bones budget, the four branches of Josephine Community Libraries have robust digital library resources (Gale and Learning Express) provided by LSTA funding through the Oregon State Library, some additional digital library subscriptions, and 41 online public access computers. The two larger branches have evening hours, extending to 6 or 7 pm to accommodate library users who work during the days. All four branches have Saturday hours. All four branches also have free high-speed wireless Internet. This means that, even with limited branch hours, users with their own computers can sit outside a closed library and still access the Internet. Users with a computer and wireless Internet can access the library catalog and the digital database library 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These resources benefit those users who know how to use the technology resources and see their value in their lives.

All computers at the four branches are nearly always in use, with a 30-minute limit to allow for those waiting for a computer. The main branch has two “research computers,” which patrons can reserve and use for up to two hours for longer projects. However, many patrons are either unaware of or don’t know how to use the digital or print resources at the library that can help them in their efforts to advance their education, find better jobs, or develop business opportunities. This is evidenced by community and cardholder surveys conducted in 2011 and 2012, as well as the click results of the Gale databases and Learning Express. When these patrons ask for help, our staff and volunteers do their best to respond to these requests, but specialized training on the digital resources and one-on-one direct coaching are required to meet patron needs in this area.

- C. *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 the activities that will be undertaken to meet each objective. (include timeline)*

The solution to this problem is to transform Josephine Community Libraries into “opportunity central,” the place where anyone looking to improve their educational, employment, or business prospects can learn about relevant programs in the community, access information and educational resources through the Internet or through the library’s digital services, find print resources, and learn how to most effectively use these resources to help them achieve their goals.

To implement this solution, we are initiating the Expanding Opportunities Program. The goal of this program is to provide relevant information literacy training for library patrons

and partnering community organizations on print, digital, and other library resources that can meet the needs of Josephine County citizens looking to develop their prospects and improve their lives in the areas of education, employability, and entrepreneurship.

The Expanding Opportunities program is coordinated by a professional with deep knowledge of library resources, educational techniques, and community partnerships. This staff member will collaborate with the partnering organizations, connect with members of the target audiences to determine their specific information access and training needs, develop and deliver the training, evaluate outcomes, and develop further program innovations.

This solution ensures that existing community resources are not duplicated, but rather promoted for each provider. In an environment of scarcity, with effective partnerships and informed referrals we can make the most of every organization's available programs, services, information, and staffing. Complementing other community services, our libraries would have much to offer, with open access to Internet computers, a wealth of digital library resources always available to anyone with a library card, direct access to an outreach education librarian, open enrollment in workshops, and train-the-trainer opportunities for partnering organizations.

By teaching library patrons and partnering organizations about the print and digital resources in the library, and providing relevant handouts and tip sheets, this program can make it easy for busy patrons and overwhelmed community organizations to understand the availability, value, and ease of access to the information they need to enhance their education, employability, and business prospects. Through this project, people throughout the county see the library not as a book museum, but as a vital information center they can use to concretely improve their lives in a variety of ways.

Benefitting from this project would be persons wanting to enhance their education, for example, by completing their General Educational Development (GED), researching scholarships, applying for college, preparing for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or achieving professional certification.

This project would assist those seeking a job and career advancement. Job-seekers can search for job openings and apply online, update their resumes, and augment job skills including computer proficiency.

Entrepreneurs would be able to research markets and feasibility regarding new business ideas, see examples of effective business plans, find loans and other funding for their ventures, research regulations regarding business expansion, and obtain information about local talent for open positions.

The scope of Year 1 of the Expanding Opportunities Program emphasizes program setup, needs assessment, and pilot workshops to gauge the needs of the target audiences and the partnering organizations. Continued funding is needed to realize the full program vision. Because Year 1 funding was delayed, the program just started this May. So far, meetings have been held with the program partners (Grants Pass School District 7, Rogue Community College, and The Job Council) to explore preliminary program ideas. The

program coordinator was recruited in June and hired in July. Needs assessments are currently under way.

The scope of Year 2 of the Expanding Opportunities Program is to focus, refine, and grow the program offerings to meet the information literacy needs of the target audience so they can improve their lives through better education, employment, or entrepreneurship. Objectives and activities are as follows:

Objective 1. Within two months after the start of Year 2, evaluate the results of Year 1 and focus and refine the program offerings to meet the information needs of the target audience.

Such program offerings could include increasing access to electronic library materials transferring workshops and other facilitated instruction on podcasts and the Web; refreshing materials acquisition relevant to the program areas of emphasis; and extending the partnership with Rogue Community College to allow greater Internet access and perhaps even laptop rentals for library cardholders, to further mitigate the digital divide and extend the reach of the library beyond its hours and its four walls out into other venues throughout the community.

Activity: Collect and analyze Year 1 workshop evaluation results.

Activity: Refine Year 2 program plans to reflect evaluation findings.

Activity: Meet with leaders and staff of Year 2 partnering organizations to establish expectations and to assess library information and training needs and wants.

Activity: Conduct surveys and interviews of the target audience among the clients of the Year 2 partnering organizations to identify and assess their information resource requirements.

Activity: Develop a report that summarizes Year 1 evaluation results and refinements and additions to the program in Year 2 based on the evaluation results and the desired outcomes of Year 2 partnering organizations and their clients.

Activity: Refine the Year 2 plan to include program refinements and additional offerings.

Objective 2. Within five months after the start of Year 2, develop four additional two-hour workshops related to the needs of the target audience and partnering organizations.

Activity: Assess and refresh materials acquisitions related to the program focus areas.

Activity: Develop patron-driven curriculum for four different two-hour workshops.

Activity: Conduct train-the-trainer sessions for library staff and volunteers.

Objective 3. By the end of Year 2, offer the four new two-hour workshops to at least 30 participants along with six workshops developed in Year 1 to at least 45 participants.

Activity: Develop, distribute, and advertise the workshop schedule..

Activity: Conduct at least three workshops per month to the target audience.

Activity: Implement a schedule for one-on-one direct coaching with library patrons.

Activity: Conduct train-the-trainer sessions for staff members of program partners.

Objective 4. Within seven months after the start of Year 2, develop three ideas for extending the reach of the library beyond its hours and walls out into other venues throughout the community.

Activity: Conduct a brainstorming session with program partners.

Activity: Conduct a survey for ideas from workshop participants and other library users.

Activity: Evaluate and choose three ideas that are most feasible for further development.

Through the Expanding Opportunities Program, the library becomes a natural partner in economic development. The program will support patrons' access to information that builds the foundation necessary for growth in employment and business. The library will team with other organizations to promote traditional literacy as well as critical digital literacy skills necessary in today's world.

D. Budget narrative

The LSTA Personnel and Benefits costs are for the Expanding Opportunities Program coordinator (outreach education librarian) and represent a 5 percent increase over Year 1.

The LSTA Travel costs represent an average of 50 driving miles per week for one year at the current IRS reimbursement rate of \$.555 per mile.

Equipment costs are for training equipment are paid by local supporting organizations. LSTA supply costs cover paper, copies, pens, and other supplies needed for the workshops.

LSTA contractual costs are for any specialized curriculum development, graphic design, workshop delivery, and group facilitation that supplements the efforts of the outreach education librarian. The amount paid by local in-kind represents printing and Web communications.

Library materials are for additions to the collection to refresh the program focus areas. This amount is paid by the JCLI operating budget and funding from local organizations.

JCLI expects to obtain sustaining support from program partners, local government, and local foundations who have an interest in alleviating the problems this proposal addresses. JCLI also expects future support for this program from the passage of an eventual library district election.

E. Evaluation and publicity

To effectively evaluate impact, the Expanding Opportunities Program coordinator and other JCLI staff and volunteers will use the Program Evaluation Logic Model as the roadmap for detailing activities, identifying outputs, identifying and measuring outcomes, and clearly articulating the goal and success criteria. As part of the program's logic model, the following data will be gathered and analyzed throughout the life of the project:

- The number and types of library skills training opportunities taken in the community, and the result in the form of individualized evaluation forms and user retention.
- The number and types of community partnerships formed as part of this project, and the result, including the number of times they trained their staff and clients.
- The number and types of one-on-one training and direct services provided by this program.
- The number and types of group training programs offered on materials, technology resources, and other topics focused on education, employability, and entrepreneurship.
- The number of people who attend the group training programs, their pre- and post-tests, and their evaluations.
- Followup surveys and interviews with participants who attended workshops or received related direct services.
- The number of new and repeat independent users generated as a result of workshops in the community or at the library.

The program coordinator (outreach education librarian) and other library staff and volunteers will also collect anecdotal evidence of positive impact when library patrons offer their stories about how they used elements of this program to further their opportunities.

The offerings of the Expanding Opportunities Program will be publicized as follows:

- Press releases and event notices to local media, the major being The Daily Courier, KAJO AM radio, KDRV Channel 12, KOB Channel 5, KTVL Channel 10, and KSOR Jefferson Public Radio.
- Workshop and other event notices in online community calendars such as those managed by the Grants Pass/Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, The Daily Courier, local radio and television stations.
- A web area dedicated to the Expanding Opportunities Program on the JCLI website (www.josephinelibrary.org) as well as news and calendar items updated at least once monthly.
- News and program offering announcements in the monthly JCLI e-newsletter, children's e-newsletter, and volunteer e-newsletter.
- Fliers and bookmarks about the program in all library branches, at partnering and participating organizations, and other strategically chosen locations in the community.
- Brief announcements at community meetings such as Chamber Greeters and Rotary.

Appendix E – Full Application

- Special program presentations to community groups, including civic organizations, about the Expanding Opportunities Program and its offerings.
- Program “commercials” at all JCLI events that are attended by members of the target audience, including children’s events where parents are present, events at the Readapalooza celebration of books, Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast, Cow Scrabble tournament, Summer Reading Program special events, and more.
- Program “talking points” used by library staff and volunteers who work the Circulation Desk and Information Desk and interact with patrons.
- Complete program information included in the Communication Logs at all branches and desks where staff and volunteers interact with patrons and need quick access.

The program will also be publicized through the communications channels of each of the partnering organizations.

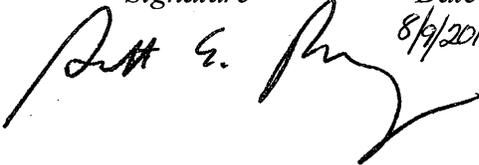
Received _____
Proposal # _____

Part IV: Certification of Application

1. Documentation of project support. Partners listed in Part I, number 12 must sign. The grant applicant signs IV.3.d. If the fiscal agent is different than the applicant, they sign IV.3.e.

I HAVE READ THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED ON THE PRECEDING PAGES. I AM AWARE OF THE OBLIGATIONS THAT PARTNERSHIP IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD ENTAIL. BY MY SIGNATURE I CERTIFY MY ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PAGES.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Library/Organization</i>
Scott Perry	Southern Oregon Education Service District

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
	8/9/2013

Received _____
Proposal # _____

Part IV: Certification of Application

1. Documentation of project support. Partners listed in Part I, number 12 must sign. The grant applicant signs IV.3.d. If the fiscal agent is different than the applicant, they sign IV.3.e.

I HAVE READ THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED ON THE PRECEDING PAGES. I AM AWARE OF THE OBLIGATIONS THAT PARTNERSHIP IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD ENTAIL. BY MY SIGNATURE I CERTIFY MY ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PAGES.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Library/Organization</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Patty Adams	Three Rivers School District		8-8-13

2. Certification for Children’s Internet Protection Act

Public and public school library applicants, and consortia with public or school members **must** check one of the options below (a, b, or c).

a.	The applicant public or public school library has complied with the requirements of Section 9134(f)(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act. Every computer connecting to the Internet, public and staff, is filtered. The filter can be disabled upon request of adults.
b.	<i>(for consortia only)</i> Prior to using any LSTA funds to purchase computers used to access the Internet or to pay for direct costs associated with accessing the Internet for a public library or a public school library, the applicant consortium or group will collect and retain a duly completed Internet Safety Certification from every constituent public library or public school library in accordance with requirements of Section 9134(f) of the Library Services and Technology Act. Every computer connecting to the Internet, public and staff, is filtered. The filter can be disabled upon request of adults.
c.	The requirements of Section 9134(f) of the Library Services and Technology Act do not apply to the applicant library because no funds made available under the LSTA program will be used to purchase computers used to access the Internet or to pay for direct costs associated with accessing the Internet for a public library or public school library that does not receive discounted E-Rate services under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

3. Certification of the grant applicant and/or fiscal agent (if different than applicant)

- a. I affirm that the jurisdiction or organization (henceforth, ORGANIZATION) is the designated fiscal agent for the project described in this application and is empowered to receive and expend funds for the conduct of the proposed grant project.
- b. I affirm that the information contained in this application is true and correct and that the ORGANIZATION for which I am an official has authorized me to submit this application for LSTA grant funds.
- c. I affirm that if this application were to result in the ORGANIZATION being awarded grant funds to carry out the project described in this application, that the ORGANIZATION would comply with all of the federal and state requirements for the administration of LSTA grants, including part IV.2 above and allowable costs described in Appendix B of the General Information and Grant Application Guidelines, Library Services and Technology Act.

d. Signature of grant applicant

Kate Lasky
Name of official authorized to enter into contractual agreements for the ORGANIZATION

Executive Director
Title

Signature Date

klasky@josephinelibrary.org
Email

541-450-3498
Phone number

e. Signature of fiscal agent (if different than applicant or if applicant is not a 501(c)3 or legally established entity or if applicant does not have contract authority for the ORGANIZATION)

NA
Name of official authorized to enter into contractual agreements for the ORGANIZATION

Title

Signature Date

Email

Phone number

Email a Word or PDF of your proposal to ann.reed@state.or.us. It is fine if you are not able to include letters of recommendation or appendices in the electronic copy. The electronic copy does not substitute for the hard copy original. The hard copy original of this form with signature must be received at the State Library no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, August 16, 2013**. Faxed copies will not be accepted. There are no exceptions. If requesting indirect costs, attach appropriate sections of a federally- approved indirect cost plan.

Mail or deliver **one copy** of your application to:

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



Rogue Community College

Library Services Department

3345 Redwood Hwy.
Grants Pass, OR 97527

Ph: (541) 956-7152

Email: tmiller@rogucecc.edu

August 8, 2013

LSTA Grant Review Committee
Oregon State Library
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-3950

Dear Committee Members:

I'm writing to give my support and endorsement for the Expanding Opportunities Program of Josephine Community Libraries.

This program reflects where public libraries need to be in this constantly changing world. This program is looking squarely at the needs of our struggling community, and is connecting with community resources and filling gaps to meet the needs of its citizens. By focusing on education, career development, and business growth, the Expanding Opportunities Program is developing solutions that can make a real improvement in people's lives and a lasting positive change in Josephine County.

In past years, I've worked with the Josephine County Library System and have served on the Josephine County Library Board of Trustees. As Department Chair of the Rogue Community College Library, I see the intersection of the needs of our college students and of the community at large. The Expanding Opportunities Program will serve both constituencies well.

I believe one of the best things a public library can do for its community is to help people gain the digital literacy skills they need to access the wealth of information available to them. This will ultimately help the members of our community achieve their goals, and will improve the quality of their lives.

I recommend your support of the project proposal. Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Thomas A. Miller, J.D., M.L.
Library Department Chair
Rogue Community College



Grants Pass & Josephine County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1995 NW Vine Street, PO Box 970
Grants Pass Or 97526
541-476-7717
www.grantspasschamber.org

August 8, 2013

LSTA Grant Review Committee
Oregon State Library
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-3950

Dear LSTA Committee Members:

At the Chamber, we see the considerable work that Josephine Community Libraries does in literacy and other educational programs for children. But we also see that the libraries are committed to the support of and collaboration with our local business community.

Josephine Community Libraries is an active member of the Chamber. Its staff is regular participants at our weekly Greeters events, sharing about their programs of interest to our member businesses. At least once each year, the Grants Pass Library hosts Greeters, and it's always a pleasure to meet at that location and see how libraries have changed with the times.

The library staff is adept at forming and maintaining strong relationships with our local businesses, large and small. Not only do they offer opportunities for sponsorship of special events, but they also reach out to businesses to make sure they're aware of the books, journals, business databases, and Internet computers they might find useful to their work.

In fact, earlier this year, the Grants Pass Library held a special open house to which Chamber members and the business community were invited. It was a wonderful event, and I believe that many business leaders were reintroduced to the library's wealth of resources available to them and their employees that can help their businesses grow and their chances of success increase.

I'm also pleased to mention that Josephine Community Libraries and its Executive Director Kate Lasky won the Chamber's Rising Star award this year.

The Expanding Opportunities Program takes the connection that the library already has with the business community to a higher level. The program emphasizes career and business growth opportunities in our area. I envision the Chamber's Business Retention and Expansion Committee and our Education Committee working closely with the Expanding Opportunities Program to share resources and referrals. I know our Chamber members as well as their employees and potential employees will be eager to avail themselves of the workshops in and out of the library, along with the print and digital resources.

Given the library's track record of support for the business community, I know that the Expanding Opportunities Program will be a success, and a great asset to our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colene Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a distinct "M".

Colene Martin, President/CEO

Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce



223 S.E. "M" Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526-3133

Phone (541) 479-1929 • FAX (541) 471-9403

www.cfk-gp.org

August 8, 2013

LSTA Grant Review Committee
Oregon State Library
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-3950

Dear LSTA Committee Members:

For at least the past decade, Josephine County has faced high employment and shrinking resources for schools, county services, and social services. At Coalition for Kids in Grants Pass, we work to help children and families meet diverse challenges and flourish despite the odds.

Part of our work includes collaboration with other community organizations to create a positive learning environment for children and families, while encouraging them to be healthy, educated, and self-sufficient.

Sharing these goals and outcomes is Josephine Community Libraries. With their free and abundant early literacy resources - including weekly story times for different ages and abilities, monthly children's programs, and reading incentive programs like the Summer Reading Program - the libraries throughout the county are invaluable venues for positive learning for children and their families.

I currently serve on the core team of the regional group Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS). As we are working to establish an Early Learning Hub, I see more opportunities to work with the libraries as an important resource for early childhood development throughout our county.

Josephine Community Libraries has also been a strong supporter of our Money Smarts program - hosting financial literacy programs and games for children and families in the library, along with book displays and publicity. The libraries share our view that financial security creates stable families that grow toward a positive future.

At Coalition for Kids, we enthusiastically support the library's new Expanding Opportunities Program. This program will help our community members connect with resources both in and out of the library in the areas of education, jobs, and business. We are excited to work with the library in this program, because of our work in early childhood development, workforce readiness, youth mentoring, and financial security.

For these reasons and more, I endorse the efforts of Josephine Community Libraries and the Expanding Opportunities Program. We are looking forward to being able to connect our clients with the resources, workshops, and other services that will be offered by this program, helping individuals meet their goals to build stronger families and a stronger community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gina Marie Agosta' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gina Marie Agosta, Executive Director

To create and support community partnerships that empower families in Josephine County to thrive.