



Oregon State Library

Ready to Read Grant Program

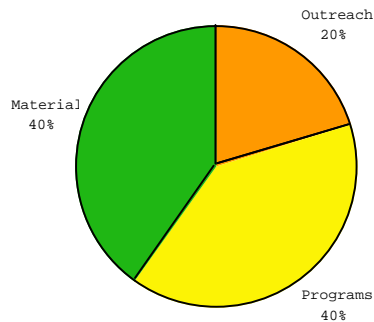
2001-2002 Final Report

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

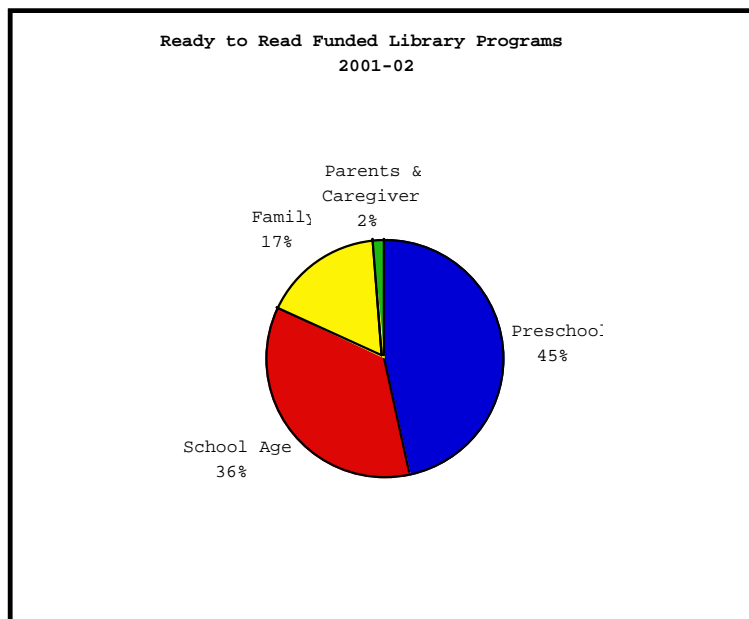
Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading. The National Academy of Education, 1985.

- Purpose:** To establish, develop or improve public library service to children in an effort to improve the reading skills of all of Oregon's children, beginning at birth.
- Funding:** \$1.02 per child (0-14) per year: \$704,316 State General Funds in 2001-2002.
- Distribution:** All public libraries are eligible to apply for an annual grant. Distribution is based on a statutory funding formula that includes number of children and square mileage of each library jurisdiction.
- Grant Amounts:** In 2001-2002, from \$ 69 to \$ 106,897; average grant = \$ 6,644.
- Results:** Since the program began in 1993, library services to children (circulation and program attendance) have increased from 7.8 million to 13.2 million in 2001, a 70% increase.

Ready to Read Expenditures by Category
2001-2002



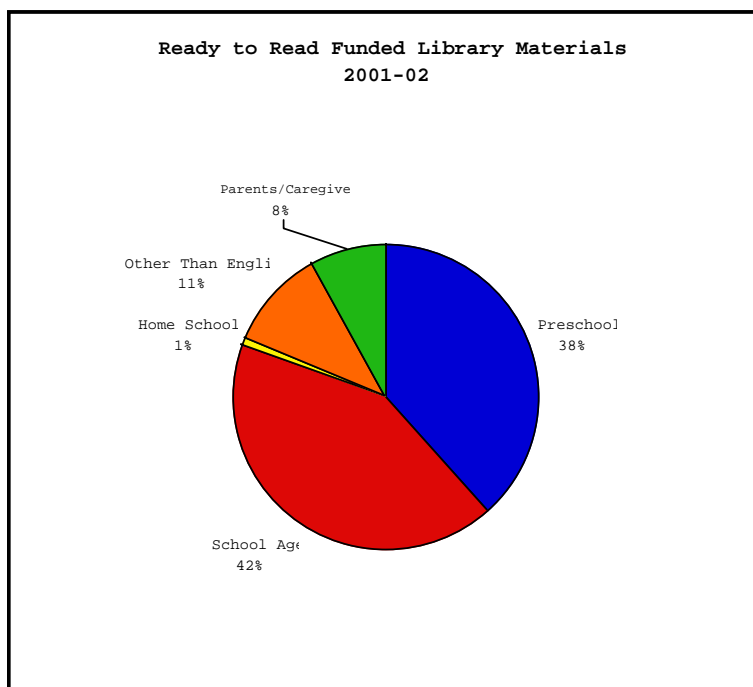
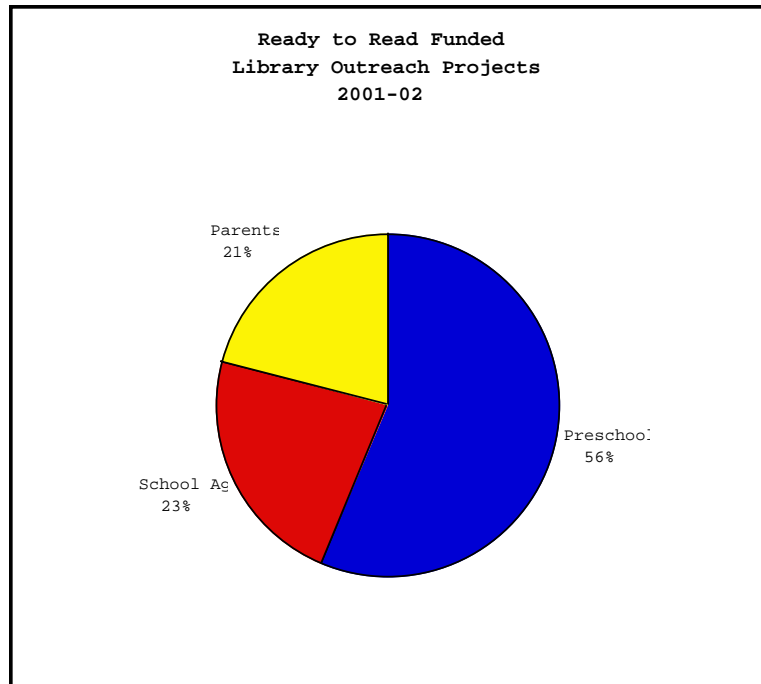
Libraries in Oregon choose to use their Ready to Read funds in a variety of ways, based on their community and library needs. This chart illustrates how Ready to Read Grant funds were used in 2001-2002. Some libraries choose to provide one type of service or material with their funding while other libraries provide an array of services and materials with their grant moneys.



Programs in libraries are an integral component of library service to children. They encourage reading, bring people into the library, and showcase library materials. In many areas in Oregon they serve to provide a cultural experience that may not be available elsewhere in the community. Often library programs are provided by library staff, and, at times, Ready to Read funds are used to bring storytellers, puppeteers and other performers into the

community and the library. The preschool storytime and Summer Reading Program serve to prepare children for school, help maintain reading skills and foster a love of reading.

Outreach projects take place outside library walls to reach children, youth, and parents who may have difficulty visiting the library. The Ready to Read projects in 2001-2002 were as diverse as providing packets of materials to families of newborns in the hospital, including a new book for the baby, to visiting classrooms of grade school children to share booktalks which spark a love of reading. Visiting child care homes and centers to share stories and activities is another effective outreach project that brings children and books together in non-traditional ways.



While many libraries in Oregon used Ready to Read funds to purchase **materials** directed at both preschool and school age children, a growing number of libraries in Oregon are targeting funding to specific audiences, such as home school families, and families whose language is other than English. Recognizing the important role of parents as a child's first teacher, libraries also provide collections of materials to assist in that role.

Sample Individual Library Results from Reports for 2001-2002:

The **Multnomah County Library** used \$106,896 in state funds and \$188,162 in other funds to provide early literacy training and mentoring to child care providers. Training and mentoring was available in English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese.

The **Hermiston Public Library** used \$2,611 in state funds and \$2,585 in local funds to bring the Summer Reading Program to children in child care, Head Start, and Migrant Head Start.

The **Umatilla County Special Library District** used \$9,000 in state funds and \$15,477 in local funds to begin developing an early childhood outreach project, *Take Off!*, which provides programming and materials for child care providers and member libraries.

The **Cedar Mill Community Library** used \$981 of the Ready to Read funds received from Washington County Cooperative Library Service to develop and bring *BookArt*, an project combining art and picture books, to children in child care. The children's art was displayed at the Library.

The **Stanfield Public Library** used \$392 in state funds and \$4,310 in local funds to provide a Summer Reading Program for local children.

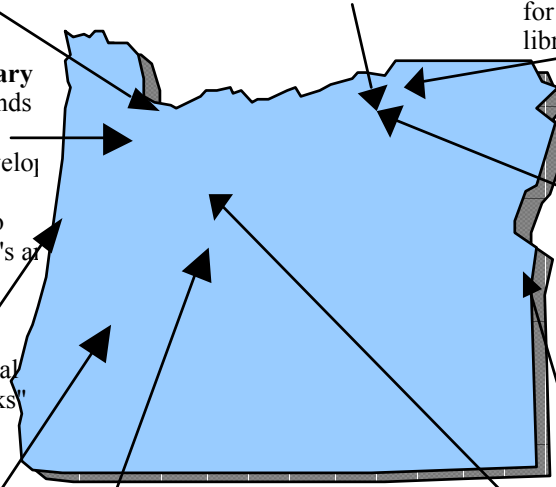
The **Waldport Public Library** used \$306 in state funds and \$250 in local funds to purchase special "big books" to use in presenting storytimes at child care and Head Start facilities.

The **Nyssa Public Library** used \$625 in state funds and \$2,090 in local funds to work with a 4-H club to create and perform puppet shows that were presented in 10 performances to over 300 community members.

The **Douglas County Library** used \$25,305 in state funds and \$3,185 in local funds to provide summer programming, participate with other local agencies in a "Celebration of Literacy", and expand Spanish language collections and programs.

The **Deschutes Public Library** used \$24,000 in state funds and \$100,000 in local funds to provide an extensive Summer Reading Program, a variety of cultural programs, and provided give-away books to local Healthy Start and Early Words programs.

The **Jefferson County Library District** used \$8,425 in state funds and \$2,748 in local funds to continue the Traveling Storyteller outreach program. The Storyteller visits child care facilities, Head Start and primary classrooms.



For more information about the Oregon State Library Ready to Read Program contact:

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The Ready to Read Grant is administered under ORS 357.740 through ORS 357.780 and OAR Chapter 543, Division 40.