

Ready to Read Grant

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the “Best Practices” on page 5 of the application?

The State Library, based on a recommendation from the Statewide Early Literacy Planning Initiative, has identified three best practices for youth services in public libraries in Oregon. They are 1) the summer reading program, 2) outreach to children, parents, childcare providers, and preschool teachers, and 3) early literacy training for parents, childcare providers, and preschool teachers. Libraries that are providing *all* three best practices will be identified in the Ready to Read Annual Report as Best Practice Libraries. Research suggests that these three practices are some of the most effective literacy development programs libraries can provide to youth in their community. These best practices serve as a guide to help libraries identify the most effective programs and services they can provide to promote literacy development for the children in their communities.

How do I report “Best Practices” on the application and final report forms?

On your Ready to Read application and final report you will only report which best practices you are funding with the Ready to Read Grant. Do *not* report best practices that your library is providing with other funding. The State Library collects data on best practices provided by your library from all funding sources via the annual Public Library Survey. We use the data from the annual Public Library Survey to determine which libraries are providing all three best practices and report those libraries as Best Practice Libraries in the Ready to Read Annual Report. We use the data you provide about funding best practices with Ready to Read funding to inform the Legislature on the impact of Ready to Read funding on library practice.

Do libraries have to spend the money by the end of the State's fiscal year?

No, you have to spend the money by the end of the calendar year (December 31st).

What is the “Statewide” Summer Reading Program?

According to Oregon Administrative Rule 543.40, "Statewide summer reading program: Means the Collaborative Summer Library Program [CSLP] Annual Summer Reading Program funded by the State Library for Oregon public libraries." Your library is using the statewide summer reading program if you are using the CSLP theme and slogan, for example the 2008 CSLP theme was bugs/insects and the slogan was "Catch the Reading Bug @ your library" for children and "Metamorphosis" for teens.

What *can* we do under the state statute that says we can only use the use the grant for early literacy and the Statewide Summer Reading Program?

- Books/audio books for 0-14 year olds that reflect the current Statewide Summer Reading Program theme, that are on next year's Oregon Battle of the Books booklist so kids can prepare for the upcoming "Battle" over the summer, or are on summer reading lists at the schools in your service area.
- Library materials for children 0-5 years old—books, audio books, music, educational toys/games, computer software, etc.
- Library materials for parents, childcare providers, and teachers of children 0-5 years old—materials must pertain to child development, education, parenting, and other topics that aid adults in caring for and educating young children.
- Fixtures or furniture to create a developmentally appropriate environment for 0-5 year olds—toddler size tables, fixture to shelve educational toys so they are accessible to children, fixture to shelve audio books or theme bags, etc.
- Outreach to school librarians and teachers to educate them about the Statewide Summer Reading Program, collaborate on the Statewide Summer Reading Program, and get teachers' summer reading lists.
- Professional development in early literacy, outreach, and program development.
- Staff time for work on early literacy and Statewide Summer Reading Program activities.
- Incentives for early literacy programs and Statewide Summer Reading Program—giveaway books, bookmarks, stickers, pencils, t-shirts, etc.
- And, much more! Call the Youth Services Consultant if you aren't sure whether or not your project is an early literacy or Statewide Summer Reading Program project.

What are the criteria for Outstanding Ready to Read Project Awards?

The State Library staff selects up to five projects each year to be honored as outstanding Ready to Read Grant projects. In addition to selecting projects from a variety of library sizes and locations, we look for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria: adhere to the original intent of the Ready to Read Grant, focus on one or more of the three best practices, promote partnerships both in and out of the library, are replicable in other libraries, or enhance current library services. Your Ready to Read project only needs to meet at least one of these criteria to be considered for the Outstanding Project Award.

What are the important dates to write on our calendar?

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| August 31, 2009 | Date library proposals must be postmarked and sent to the State Library. |
| October 2009 | The State Library will mail the revised Ready to Read Grants list for 2009-2010. |
| December 2009 | The State Library will mail grant awards to libraries. |
| December 1, 2010 | Date 2009-2010 grant final reports must be postmarked and sent to the State Library. |