Oregon State Library

Ready to Read Grant Program

2011-2012 Annual Report

> "Low-income families are less likely to read books; go to the library, museum or theater; take music lessons; or do organized sports activities. Yet these experiences make a difference [*in the achievement gap*], with a visit to the library being the most discriminating factor of all"
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> *Alexander, K. (April 2009). "Hopkins Study—Public Libraries Determinative in School Success".* ODE, 72.

Purpose: Establish, develop or improve public library early literacy services for children from birth to five years of age and to provide the statewide summer reading program for children from birth to 14 years of age.

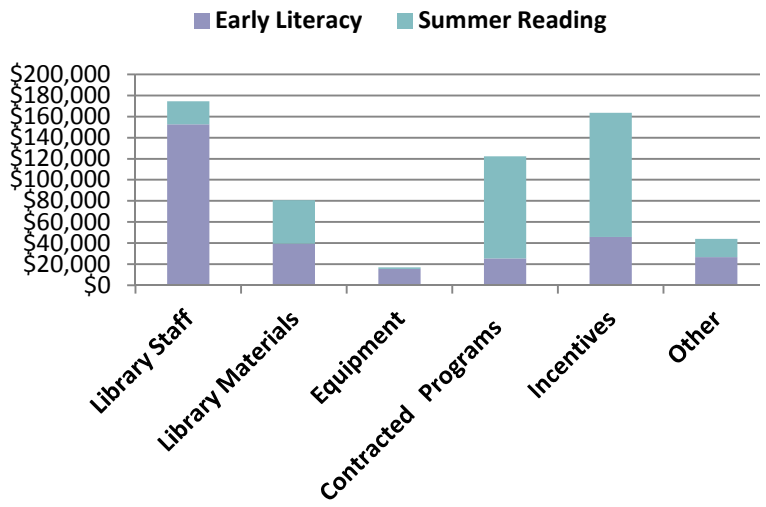
Funding: 86¢ per child 0-14 years old, $1,000 minimum grant; $605,668 State General Funds. This year each $1.00 in Ready to Read funds leveraged $1.44 in local funds.

Distribution: All legally established public libraries in Oregon 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. One hundred and twenty-nine libraries were eligible to apply, 129 applied and 129 were awarded a Ready to Read Grant.

Grants: The largest grant awarded was $88,400 and the average award was $4,695. Fifty-seven minimum grants of $1,000 were awarded; if the minimum grant was not available the smallest grant would have been $32.

Results: 53% of the 129 libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants are providing all three services identified as best practices in library youth services; these libraries serve 566,344 children. In 2012, the total number of children and adults attending library literacy programs was 1,171,704. The number of children and teens participating in the Summer Reading Program was 193,870.

Ready to Read Spending



Researcher James Kim of Harvard University identifies three things children and teens need to improve their reading skills: 1) access to books and other reading materials, 2) books that match an individual's current reading level and personal interests, and 3) conversations with an adult about what they are reading to build comprehension.

Libraries spent $80,687 of Ready to Read funds to purchase books and other materials for their collections and $163,691 on reading incentives such as books that were given away to children to start their own home libraries. Ready to Read funds were used to contract with performers ($122,166) who presented high-interest programs that attracted new library users and to pay staff ($174,546) who helped children and teens select books that match their reading level and interests and implemented programs that encouraged conversations around books and reading.

Libraries spent $16,739 on equipment, primarily to provide technology needed to support digital literacy activities. Other expenses ($44,040) were primarily spent on promotional materials and program supplies.

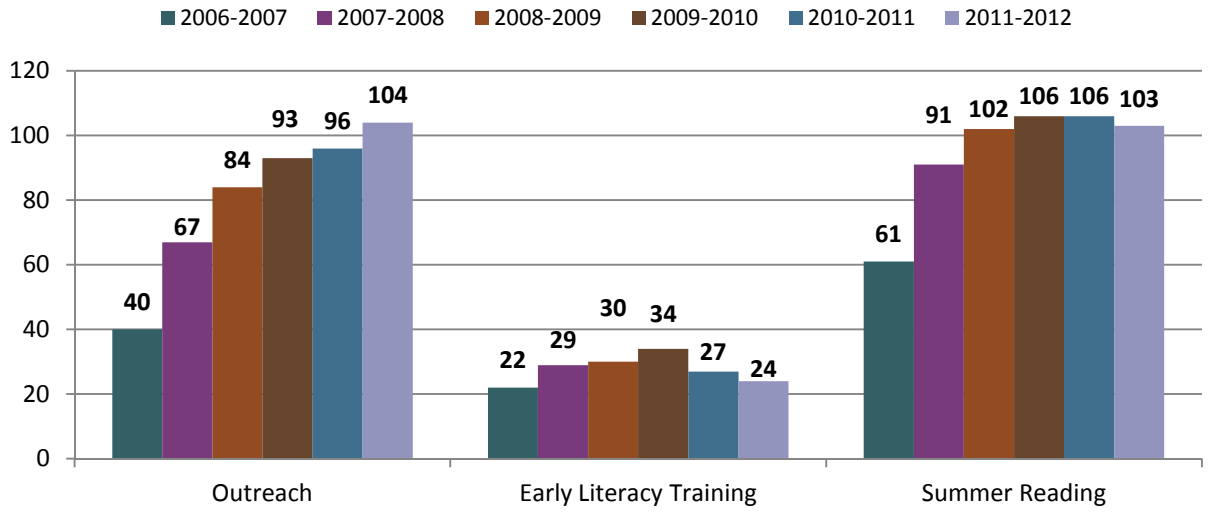
Research shows that much of the academic achievement gap can be attributed to unequal access to early learning activities (Jumpstart) and unequal access to summer enrichment programs (Alexander, K.L.). Libraries spent $305,065 on early literacy activities and $296,799 on summer reading programs.

The attendance at the [summer reading] programs increased over the attendance numbers reported last year. We also had an increase in the number of temporary library cards issued to the summer reading participants [who don't live within our library's service area]. At least three families returned to the library [this fall] to sign up for library cards as a result of the summer reading program. One family said they now have to read before breakfast and bedtime… because the [summer reading] incentives got their children started and enjoying reading so now they don't want to stop.

--Rose Peda
Library Director
Sweet Home Public Library

The State Library has established three metrics that measure the effectiveness of the Ready to Read Grant Program. The first metric is the State Library's Key Performance Measure (KPM) #8, percent of Ready to Read Grantees incorporating best practices into their services to children. The first metric has been broken into three parts.

Metric 1(a): *Number of libraries using Ready to Read grants to fund best practices.*



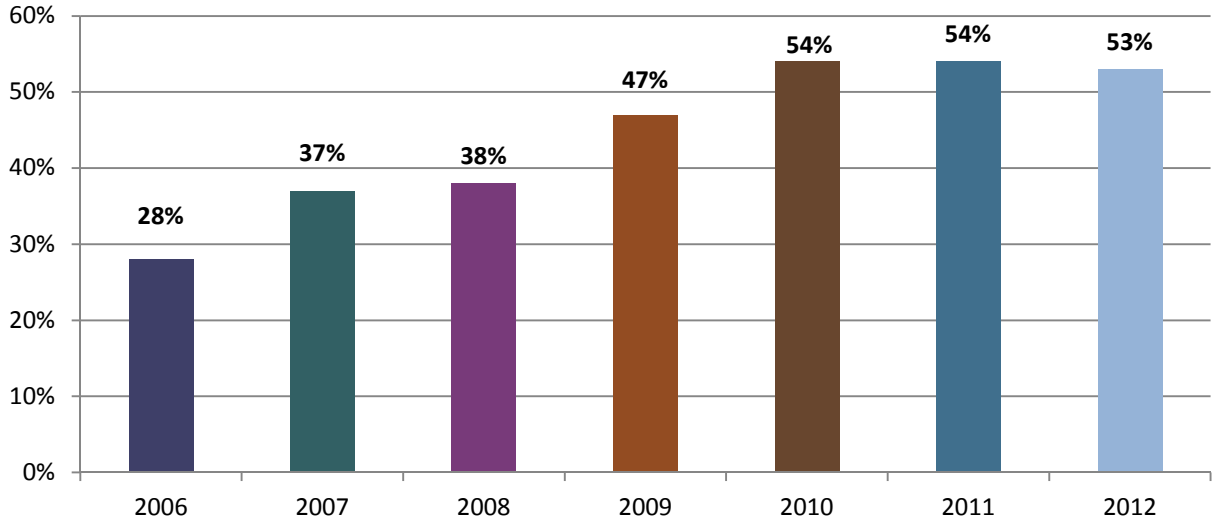
What it measures: During the 2011-2012 grant cycle 104 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support outreach, 24 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support early literacy training for parents and childcare providers, and 103 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support summer reading programs.

Factors affecting results: In the past there was confusion around whether or not libraries should report all best practices provided or just those funded by the Ready to Read Grant and what activities were considered outreach. Therefore the Ready to Read Grant Final Report forms were revised in 2010-2011 and again in 2011-2012 to elicit more accurate responses from libraries around best practices funded by the Ready to Read Grant. Improved reporting, increased Ready to Read funding, and a statewide emphasis on partnering with local agencies to break down barriers to library access resulted in an increase of outreach activities funded by Ready to Read.

How it relates to the Ready to Read Grant Program: The purpose of the Ready to Read Grant is to provide libraries with funding that will allow them to provide additional services to children that go beyond the basic services most libraries currently provide. The three best practices serve as a guide to help libraries identify additional services to provide. This data shows how many libraries use Ready to Read funds to provide each of the three best practices to achieve the purpose of the Ready to Read Grant. Success of the grant program should lead to an increase in the number of libraries using Ready to Read funds to provide the three best practices.

Data Source: 2011-2012 Ready to Read Grant Final Reports.

Metric 1(b): *Percent of public libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants incorporating all three best practices in their services to children.*



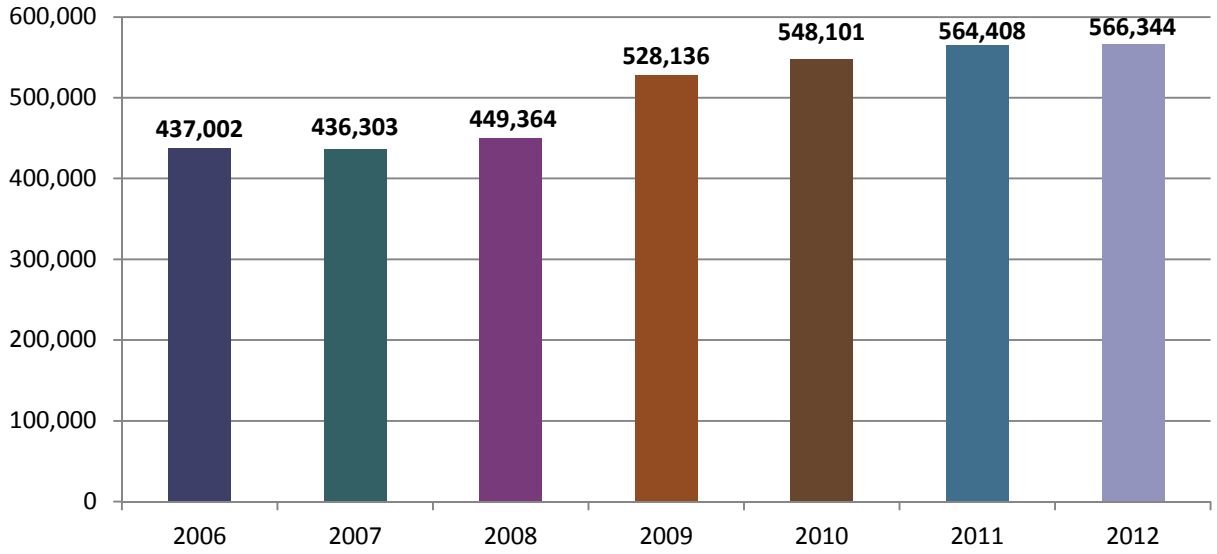
What it measures: The State Library identified three best practices in library services to children that research shows can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. The three best practices are: library outreach to underserved children, summer reading programs, and early literacy training for parents and childcare providers. During the 2011-2012 grant cycle, 68 (53%) of the 129 Oregon public libraries that received Ready to Read Grants implemented all three best practices.

Factors affecting results: During 2008-2010 the Oregon State Library and Oregon Commission on Children and Families implemented a three year grant project to train children's library staff and Healthy Start family support workers in early literacy. Each participating library committed to providing early literacy training for 15 parents, and was encouraged to develop partnerships with Healthy Start staff to carry out additional early literacy activities in their local communities. As participating libraries are meeting this commitment some are deciding not to continue providing explicit early literacy training to families, but are integrating concepts from the curriculum into basic services such as storytimes and play groups based on what works best in their community. This has resulted in a leveling-off in libraries providing early literacy training.

How it relates to the Ready to Read Grant Program: The purpose of the Ready to Read Grant program is to provide libraries with funding that will allow them to provide additional services to children that go beyond the basic services most libraries currently provide. These three best practices serve as a guide to help libraries identify services they could implement to achieve this purpose. Success of the grant program should lead to an increase in the percentage of libraries providing all three best practices.

Data source: Annual survey of Oregon public libraries and Ready to Read final awards table. Libraries report which best practices they provide, regardless of how they are funded, on the Annual Public Library survey. This survey is cross-referenced with the Ready to Read final awards table to identify the number of libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants implementing all three best practices.

Metric 1(c): *Number of children served by Best Practice Libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants*



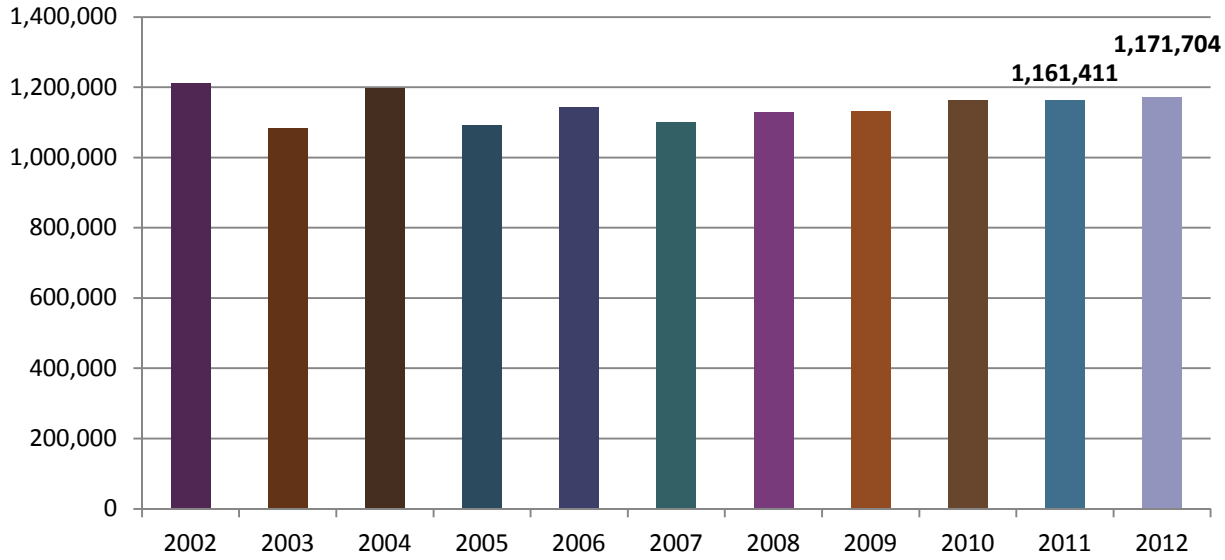
What it measures: During the 2011-2012 grant cycle 566,344 Oregon children lived in the service area of one of the 68 libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that provided all three best practices.

Factors affecting results: Between 2011 and 2012 the number of libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that provide all three best practices decreased by one (down from 69 to 68). However, there was an increase in the population living within the service areas of the 68 libraries continuing to implement all three best practices.

How it relates to the Ready to Read Grant Program: This data shows how many children in Oregon have access to libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that provide all three best practices. In 2012, the Ready to Read Grant helped libraries provide 566,344 Oregon children with access to all three services that research shows can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. Success of the grant program should lead to an increase in the number of children served by best practice libraries.

Data source: Annual Public Library Survey of Oregon public libraries and Ready to Read final awards table. These two documents are cross-referenced to calculate the number of children living in the service area of libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that implement all three best.

Metric 2: *Attendance at library literacy programs (adults and children).*



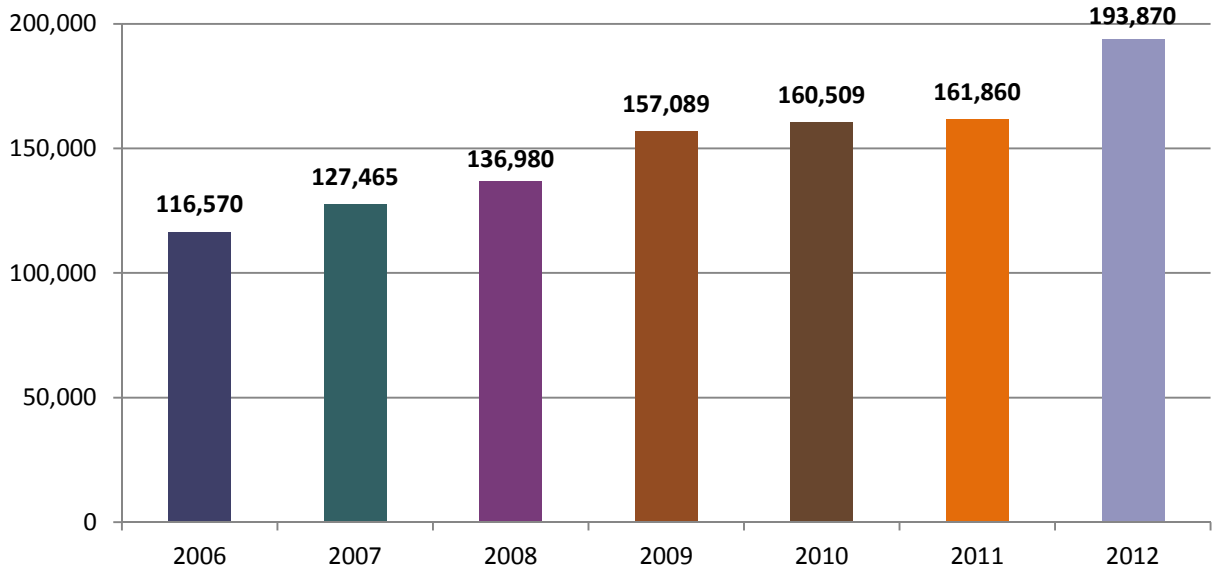
What it measures: During the 2011-2012 grant cycle 1,171,704 people attended children's literacy programs presented by public libraries. Library literacy programs provide children with experiences that help them develop the skills they need to become proficient readers and a love for reading. They also provide parents and caregivers with models of literacy activities they can use with their children outside the library. Examples of such programs include, but are not limited to: storytimes, summer reading programs, book clubs, puppet shows, storytellers, and author visits.

Factors affecting results: Many libraries use the Ready to Read Grant to provide special programs and events they couldn't afford otherwise. The increase in Ready to Read funding enabled libraries ability to expand programming.

How it relates to the Ready to Read Grant Program: Many libraries use their Ready to Read Grant funds to support their programming for children. Success of the grant program should lead to an increase in the number of children attending library literacy programs.

Data source: Annual State Library survey of Oregon public libraries.

Metric 3: *Number of children participating in the Summer Reading Program.*



What it measures: During the 2011-2012 grant cycle 193,870 children and teens participated in a summer reading program at a public library in Oregon.

Factors affecting results: One hundred and three out of 129 libraries receiving grants used Ready to Read funds to support summer reading programs. The increase in Ready to Read funding enabled many libraries to offer more programming, reading incentives, and promotional activities last summer. For their 100th year of providing a summer reading program, Multnomah County Library set and exceeded their goal to get 100,000 children and teens to participate in summer reading. Multnomah County Library's efforts alone increased participation by almost 15,000 children and teens.

How it relates to the Ready to Read Grant Program: Most libraries use their Ready to Read Grant to fund summer reading programs. Summer reading programs are one of the three best practices libraries can provide. Success of the grant program should lead to an increase in summer reading program participation.

Data source: 2006-2008 Oregon Library Association's Summer Reading Survey, 2009 State Library's Ready to Read final reports, 2010-2012 State Library's Summer Reading Survey.

Best Practice Libraries in 2011-2012

The State Library identified three best practices in library services to children that research shows can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. The three best practices are: services to children outside the library (outreach), summer reading programs, and early literacy training for parents and childcare providers. Best Practice Libraries are those that implement all three best practices.

Adams Public Library	Garden Home Community Library*	Pendleton Public Library
Albany Public Library	Gladstone Public Library	Port Orford Public Library
Arlington Public Library	Harney County Library	Salem Public Library
Astoria Public Library	Hermiston Public Library	Sandy Public Library
Athena Public Library	Hillsboro Public Library	Seaside Public Library
Baker County Library District	Hood River County Library	Sherman County Public/School Library
Bandon Public Library	Independence Public Library	Siuslaw Public Library District
Beaverton City Library	Jackson County Library Services	Springfield Public Library
Canby Public Library	Jefferson County Library District	St. Helens Public LIbrary
Cedar Mill Community Library*	Junction City Public Library	Stayton Public Library
Chetco Community Public Library	Klamath County Library Service District	The Dalles-Wasco County Library
Coos Bay Public Library	La Grande Public Library	Tigard Public Library
Coquille Public Library	Lake County Library District	Tillamook County Library
Cornelius Public Library	Lake Oswego Public Library	Tualatin Public Library
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library	Lane Library District	Ukiah Public Library
Cottage Grove Public Library	Lebanon Public Library	Waldport Public Library
Curry Public Library District	Ledding Library	Wallowa County Library
Dallas Public Library	Mary Gilkey Public Library	Washington County Cooperative Library Services
Deschutes Public Library District	McMinnville Public Library	West Linn Public Library
Douglas County Library System	Monmouth Public Library	Willamina Public Library
Driftwood Public Library	Multnomah County Library	Wilsonville Public Library
Estacada Public Library	Newberg Public Library	Woodburn Public Library
Eugene Public Library	Newport Public Library	
Forest Grove City Library	North Bend Public Library	

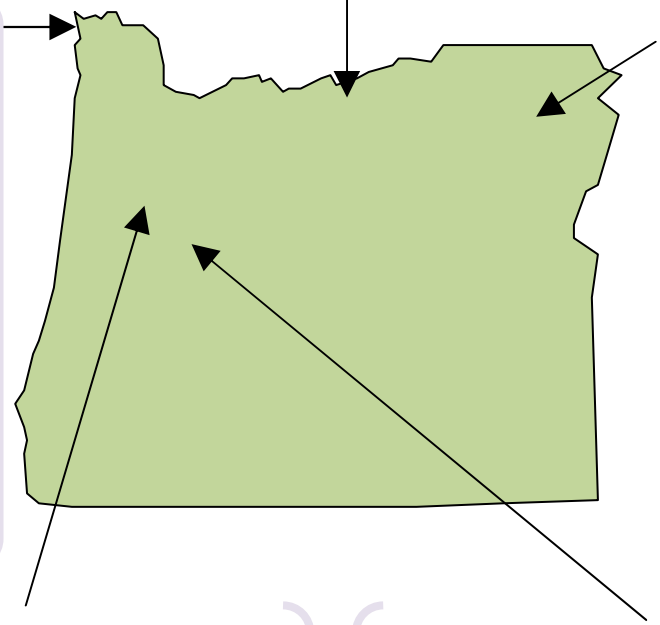
**These libraries implement all three best practices, but are not among the 129 libraries eligible to apply for Ready to Read Grants. The number of libraries that implement all three best practices and receive Ready to Read Grants is 68. The total number of libraries that implement all three best practices, regardless of funding, is 70.*

Outstanding Ready to Read Grant Projects for 2011-2012

Each year the State Library recognizes outstanding Ready to Read Grant projects that have been particularly effective in achieving the goals of the grant program. The criteria for an outstanding Ready to Read Grant project are: adhere to the original intent of the Ready to Read Grant, promote partnerships both in and out of the library, are replicable in other libraries, enhance current library services, or focus on one or more of the three best practices.
Best Practice Libraries are those that implement all three library youth services best practices.

Arlington Public Library: $1,000 state funds, $950 library funds, and $1,265 other funds. Storytimes in the library and at a local preschool resulted in increased library usage by families and more parents reported that they read daily with their children. Staff observed an increase in regular library visits, children and teens checked out increasingly challenging reading material, and more parents participated with their children during the summer reading program. ***Best Practice Library***.

Seaside Public Library: $1,000 state funds and $250 library funds. Partnered with the school district to reestablish a Summer Reading Academy for students reading below grade level as outlined by the Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Many participants had never been to the library and got library cards for the first time.
Best Practice Library.



Elgin Public Library: $1,000 state funds, $71 library funds, and $573 other funds. Made significant changes to their summer reading program which resulted in 41% of children and teens reaching their reading goal and more consistent weekly program attendance. This was the greatest impact their library has had on getting children and teens to read during the summer in over 10 years.

Independence Public Library: $1,019 state funds, $200 library funds, and $1,934 other funds. Provided Spanish-English bilingual materials, staff, and resources to engage more Spanish speaking youth in summer reading programs. Reached their goal to increase participation of Spanish speakers by 10%. Participation overall increased by over 10% and staff observed more families participating as a group. ***Best Practice Library***.

Lebanon Public Library: $2,049 state funds, $2,293 library funds, and $725 other funds. Hosted two baby shower early literacy events, presented monthly storytimes at Head Start, developed early literacy handouts to encourage parents to extend storytime activities at home. Presented multi-age family storytimes during the summer. Children and teens increased the number of minutes they read during the summer. ***Best Practice Library***.

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