Oregon State Library

Ready to Read Grant Program

2012-2013 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 six years of age and to provide the statewide summer reading program for children from birth to 14 years of age.

Funding: 80¢ per child 0-14 years old, $1,000 minimum grant; $609,801 State General Funds. This year each $1.00 in Ready to Read funds leveraged $1.83 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 thirty libraries were eligible to apply, 129 applied and 129 were awarded a Ready to Read Grant.

Grants: The largest grant awarded was $85,543 and the average award was $4,727. Fifty-six minimum grants of $1,000 were awarded; if the minimum grant was not available the smallest grant would have been $29.

Results: 50% 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 544,521 children. In 2013, the total number of children and adults attending library literacy programs was 1,189,982. The number of children and teens participating in the Summer Reading Program was 189,430.

Ready to Read Spending

Libraries spent $269,332 on early literacy activities and $342,749 on summer reading programs. One hundred and two libraries used grant funds to support bringing early literacy and/or summer reading services out of the library to youth at other locations (outreach). Libraries reported using $893,797 from their own budget and $224,096 from other sources, primarily Friends of the Library groups, to help support grant activities—leveraging an average of $1.83 for every dollar they received from the state. The total cost of achieving these results, regardless of funding source, was $1,729,973.

Sample Outcome Based Evalation Results

Nyssa Public Library
Outcome: Young children will develop listening skills and begin to respond to theme-based stories, songs, and games.
Evaluation and results: Librarian documented observations during storytimes over the course of the year. Young children gradually extended their ability to listen stories and increased their participation in storytime activities.

Silver Falls Library District
Outcome: Children will improve their early literacy skills
Evaluation and results: Surveyed parents of young children attending storytimes and of children who completed the pre-reader summer reading program. 82% reported their child increased their ability to use a book, 81% reported their child increased their ability to recognize letters or sing the ABC song, 91% reported their child increased their ability to sing or recite fingerplays and rhymes, and 100% reported that storytimes and/or the pre-readers summer reading program helped their child develop early literacy skills.

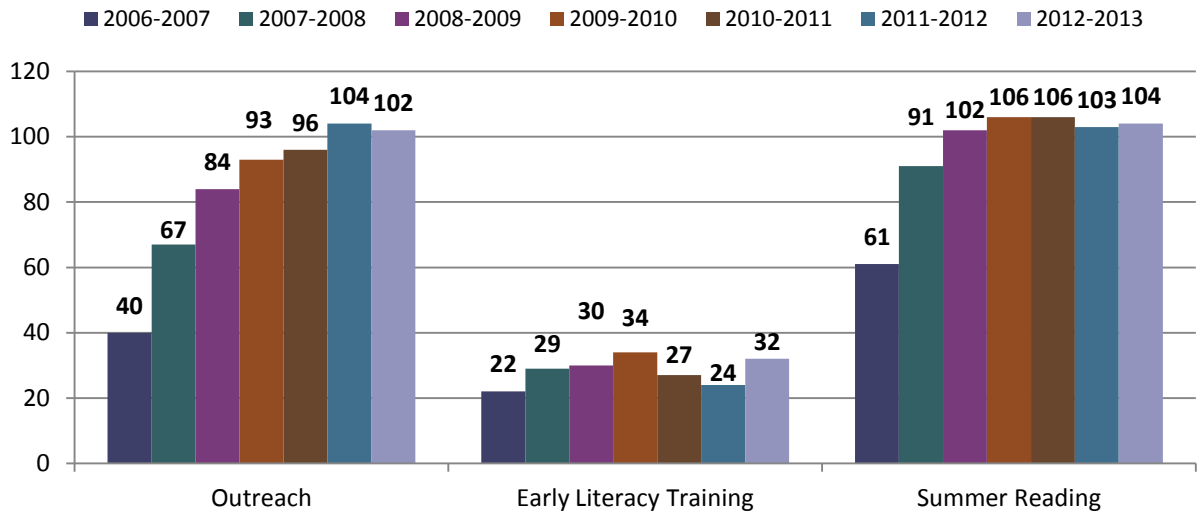
Yachats Public Library
Outcome: Children will continue reading throughout the summer and associate reading with fun.
Evaluation and results: Surveyed parents of youth who attended the final summer reading event. 100% reported their child enjoyed the program, 80% reported their child increased the amount they read, and 100% reported their child's reading/listening comprehension improved.

A 14 year old reluctant reader was signed up for the [summer reading program] by her grandmother. After a couple weeks of being strongly encouraged to read, she became hooked. She discovered she loved to read [and] submitted her hours every week hoping to win. She did! Her grandmother reports the [summer reading program] made a huge difference to [her granddaughter] who now loves books and reading. Her grand-mother feels it brought [her] out of her shell and made her feel good about herself.

--Lisa Moody
Children's Services Coordinator
Harney County 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 each best practice.*



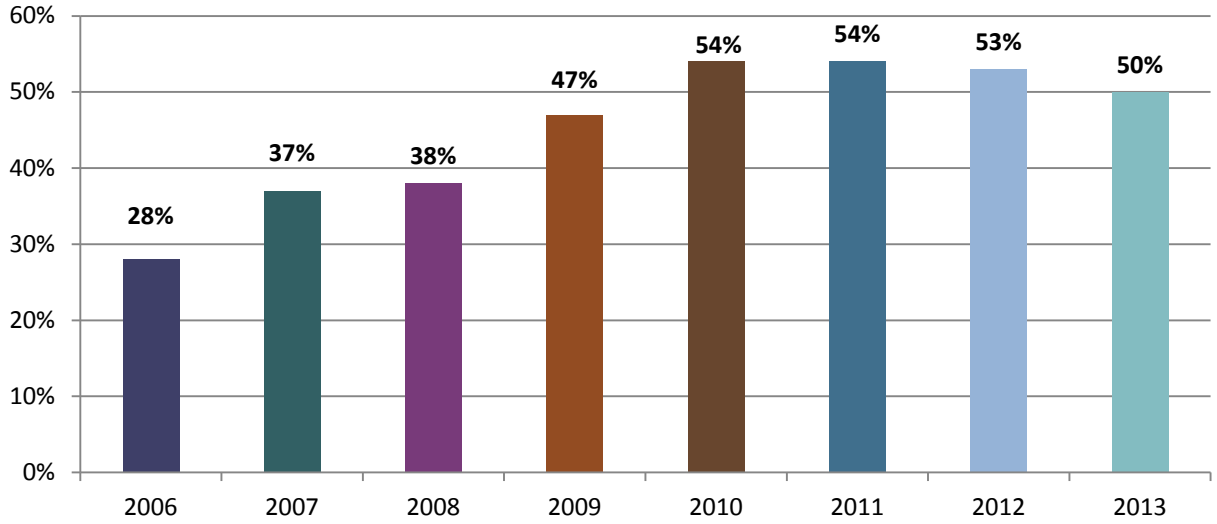
What it measures: During the 2012-2013 grant cycle 102 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support outreach, 32 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support early literacy training for parents and childcare providers, and 104 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to support summer reading programs.

Factors affecting results: The inclusion of the Ready to Read Grant program in House Bill 3232 was an impetus for public libraries to get involved in their local early learning hubs and for the State Library to conduct an additional Every Child Ready to Read Training of Trainers, funded by the Library Services and Technology Act, to expand the cadre of Oregon Registry approved Standardized Trainers. A few libraries explicitly stated in their grant reports that participation in their local early learning hub increased demand for library early literacy services and three libraries contacted the State Library to inquire about contracting with one of the new Standardized Trainers. Therefore, a logical link can be made between these activities and the increase in early literacy training supported by Ready to Read funding.

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: 2012-2013 Ready to Read Grant Final Reports.

Metric 1(b): *Percent of public libraries incorporating all three best practices in their services to children regardless of funding source.*



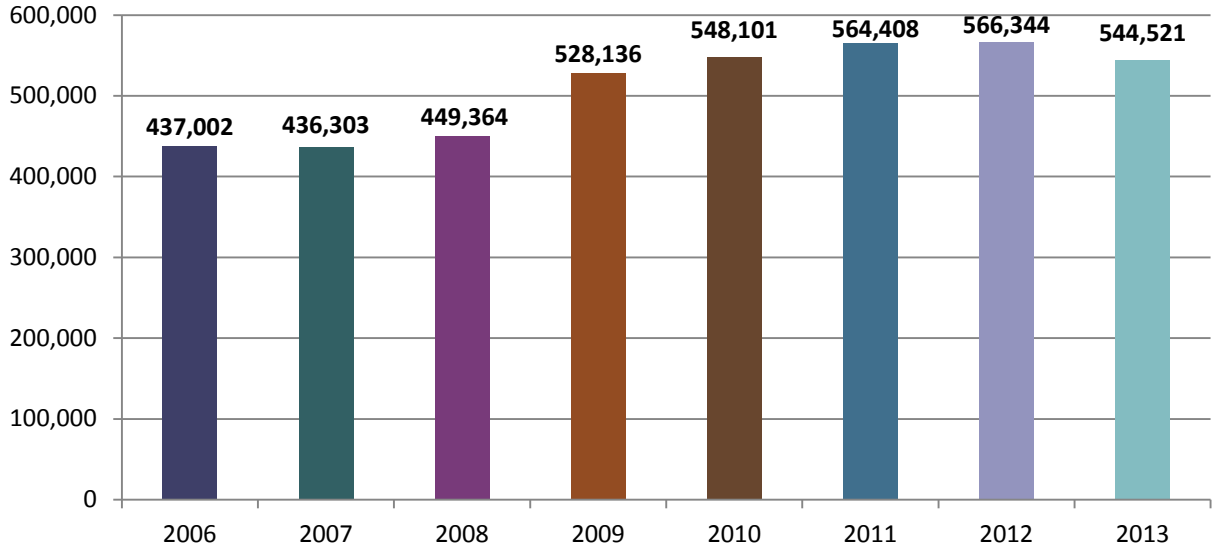
What it measures: The State Library identified three best practices in library services to children that research shows, can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. The three best practices are: library outreach to underserved children, summer reading programs, and early literacy training for parents and childcare providers. During the 2012-2013 grant cycle, 64 (50%) of the 129 Oregon public libraries that received Ready to Read Grants reported implementing all three best practices regardless of funding. Libraries may implement all three best practices, but use Ready to Read Grant funds to support some best practices or other activities altogether. Sixteen libraries used the Ready to Read Grant to support all three best practices and 9 libraries did not use Ready to Read to fund any best practices.

Factors affecting results: Metric 1(a) indicates more libraries are using the Ready to Read Grant to fund one or more best practices, but metric 1(b) indicates that fewer libraries are implementing all three best practices regardless of funding. One may extrapolate that more libraries are using Ready to Read Grants to support one or more best practices, but not using as much other funding to support best practices.

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*



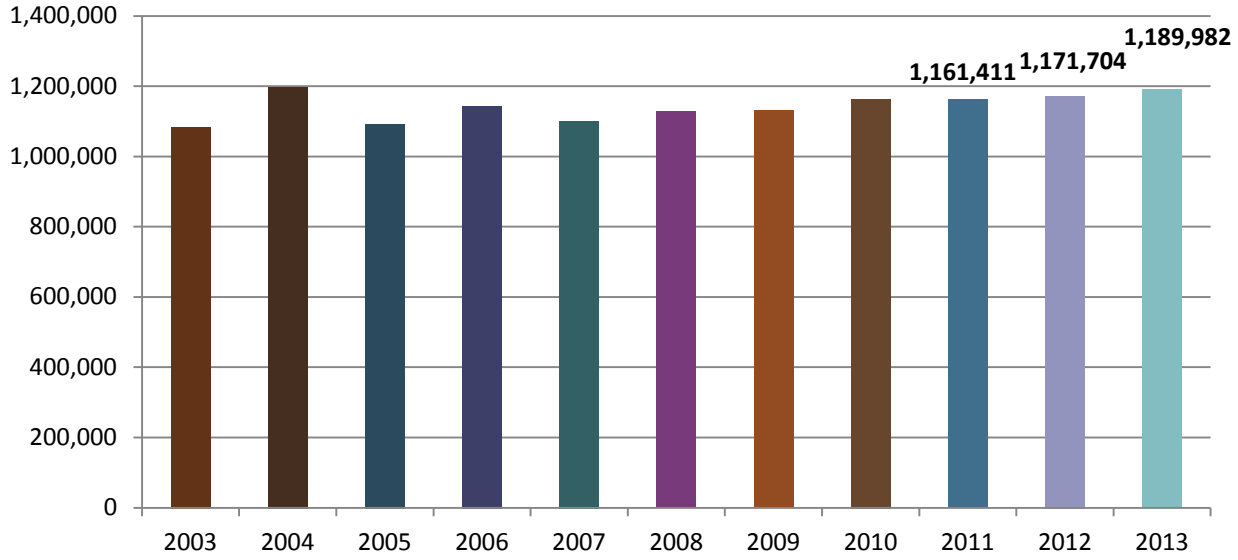
What it measures: During the 2012-2013 grant cycle 544,521 Oregon children lived in the service area of one of the 68 libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that provided all three best practices.

Factors affecting results: Fewer libraries are implementing all three best practices, therefore fewer youth are served by best practice libraries.

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 2013, the Ready to Read Grant helped libraries provide 544,521 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).*



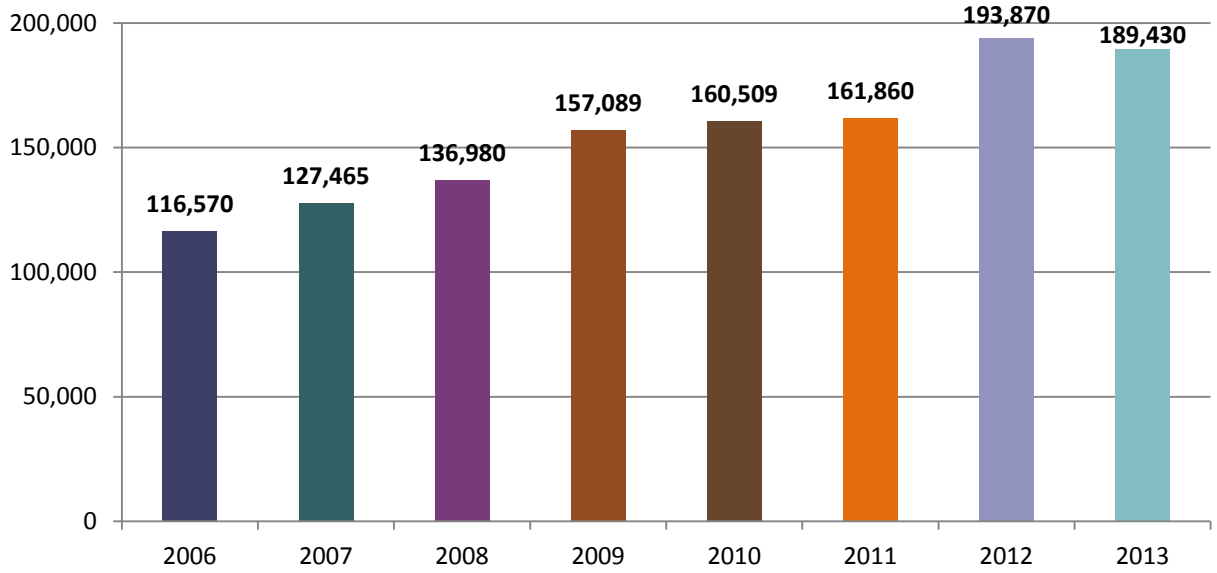
What it measures: During the 2012-2013 grant cycle 1,189,982 people attended children's and young adult literacy programs presented by public libraries. Library literacy programs provide children with experiences that help them develop the skills they need to become proficient readers and a love for 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. A few libraries reported that participation in their early learning hub in 2013 increased community awareness of and participation in library youth services.

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: For their 100th year of providing a summer reading program in 2012, 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 in 2012. In 2013, Multnomah County did not have such an ambitious goal and their participation alone decreased by 8,320. Therefore a statewide decrease of only 4,440 means that summer reading participation at other libraries increased significantly.

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, 2013 State Library's Summer Reading Survey.

Best Practice Libraries in 2012-2013

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

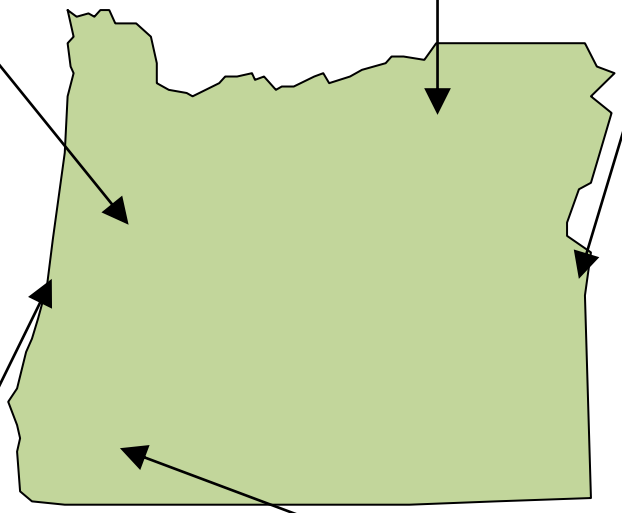
**These libraries implement all three best practices, but did not receive Ready to Read funding directly from the State Library. The number of libraries that implement all three best practices and receive Ready to Read Grants is 64. The total number of libraries that implement all three best practices, regardless of funding, is 67.*

Outstanding Ready to Read Grant Projects for 2012-2013

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.

Ukiah Public Library: $1,000 state funds and $400 other funds. Implemented summer reading projects such as rock hunting, investigating worms, and researching big digging machines. Children demonstrated their ability to read and work together and have fun while doing it. Children didn't miss any of the sessions. ***Best Practice Library***.

Silver Falls Library District: $3,132 state funds, $8,219 library funds, and $1200 other funds. 100% of participating parents reported weekly storytimes with multiple copies of titles so families could follow along helped their child develop early literacy skills. 91% of participating youth reported the summer reading program, in which they tracked days per week they read, helped them develop a habit of reading on a regular basis.



Nyssa Public Library: $1,000 state funds, $1,200 library funds, and $50 other funds. Weekly storytimes in the library and at the local Head Start. Young children extended their listening span and ability to participate in activities, online early literacy tips received 431 hits, parents frequently requested their child's favorite author indicating interactive reading continued at home, and most families went on to participate in summer reading.
Best Practice Library.

Yachats Public Library: $1,000 state funds and $850 other funds. Partnered with community center to implement the summer reading program once a week. Youth went to the library for storytime, to check in their reading logs, and check out new books and then went to the community center to do an activity related to that week's theme. Two offsite events were held at a local Master Gardner's site and at the city public works maintenance shop. 80% of parents of participants reported their child read more over the summer and 100% reported their child's reading/listening comprehension increased.

Jackson County Library Services: $27,944 state funds, $50,500 library funds, and $15,000 other funds. Hosted 3 developmentally appropriate weekly storytimes, provided early literacy training for staff, volunteers, and childcare providers, provided rotating book collections to childcare providers, and early literacy exhibits at community events. Implemented Spring into Summer Reading for Head Start and childcare centers that are closed in the summer, Summer Reading on the Road for youth in childcare or at camp during the summer, and the Traditional Summer Reading Program at libraries.
Best Practice Library.

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