



Oregon State Library

## **Ready to Read Grant Program**

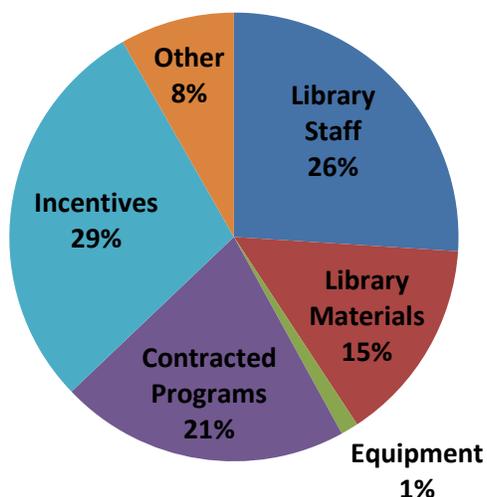
### *2010-2011 Annual Report*

**"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:** 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:** 67¢ per child 0-14 years old, \$1,000 minimum grant; \$529,972 State General Funds. This year each \$1.00 in Ready to Read funds leveraged \$2.72 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-eight libraries were eligible to apply, 128 applied and 128 were awarded a Ready to Read Grant.
- Grant Amounts:** The largest grant awarded was \$76,168 and the average award was \$4,140. Sixty-three minimum grants of \$1,000 were awarded.
- Results:** 54% of the 128 libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants are providing all three services identified as best practices in library youth services; these libraries serve 564,408 children. In 2011, the total number of children and adults attending library literacy programs was 1,161,411. The number of children and teens participating in the Summer Reading Program was 161,860. The fact that the 2010-2011 Ready to Read Grant was reduced by almost 25% from 2009-2010, and was at the lowest rate per child since the 1996-1997 Grant cycle affected all results.

## Ready to Read Spending



Libraries spent \$78,459 of Ready to Read funds on purchasing books and other materials for their collections and \$153,785 on reading incentives such as books that were given away to children to start their own home libraries. Analysis shows that communities with high achievement rates on tests have several common factors, including a well-stocked public library, availability of books throughout the community, and a high ratio of text books to students (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids).

Ready to Read funds were used to contract with presenters (\$111,085) or to pay staff (\$138,497) to plan and present literacy programs such as storytimes, early literacy training, storytelling, puppet shows, and summer reading programs. Libraries spent \$6,729 on equipment, primarily furnishings to create early literacy rich environments. Children’s furnishings and educational toys expose children to an environment that connects reading to real-world experiences (National Association for the Education of Young Children). Other expenses (\$43,868) were primarily spent on promotional materials and program supplies.

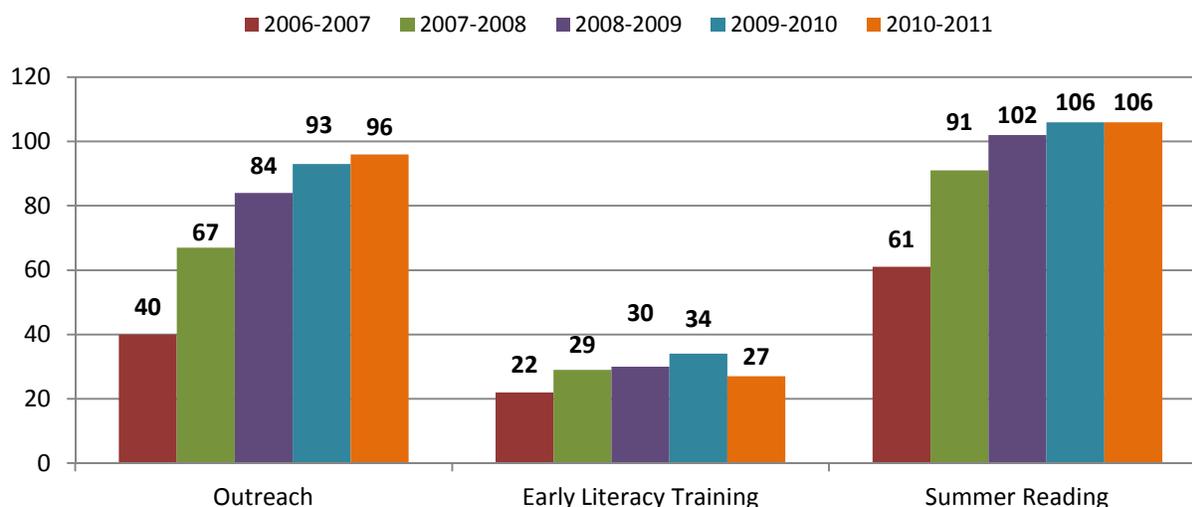
*“All the parents that participated in the St. Helens High School Teen Parent Program were reading to their children daily by the end of last school year. [Their babies] were turning pages in the books we read and had obviously gained some familiarity with books and reading. One older child was able to sing some of our regular songs and clapped along with us. Additionally, each family went home with at least three board books to add to their home collection.*

*...the teacher who manages the high school program even signed up for another year of once per month librarian visits. This is a big compliment given how busy they are with their regular curriculum... Every educational hour is precious, and they were willing to share almost a full day of instructional time with us over the course of the coming year.”*

--Nathan Jones,  
Youth Services Librarian  
St. Helens 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.**



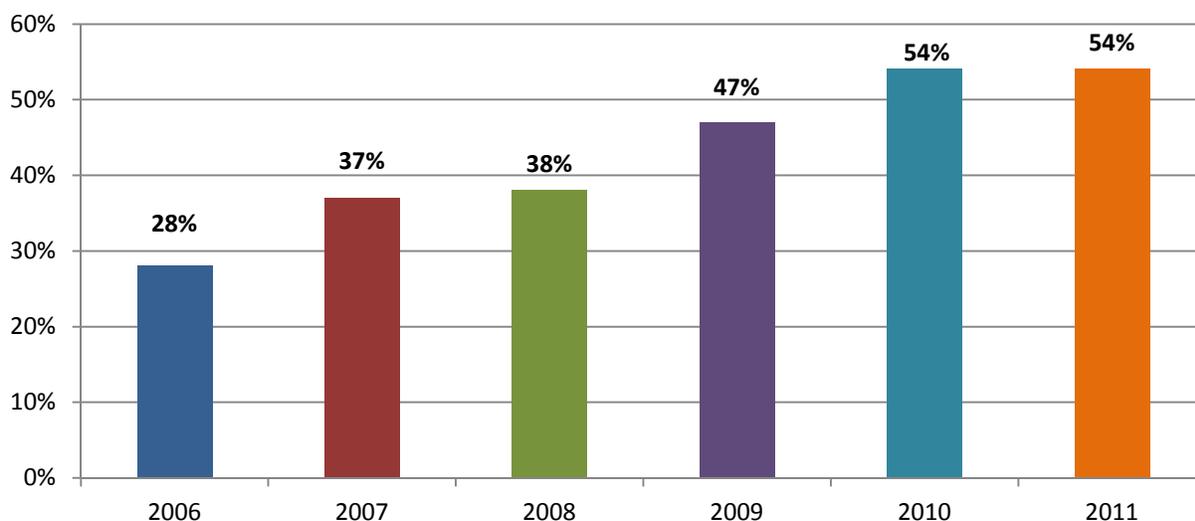
*What it measures:* During the 2010-2011 grant cycle 96 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to fund outreach, 27 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to fund early literacy training for parents and childcare providers, and 106 libraries used their Ready to Read Grant to fund summer reading programs.

*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. Therefore the 2010-2011 Ready to Read Grant Final Report Form was revised to illicit more accurate responses from libraries around best practices funded by the Ready to Read Grant. The reduction in Ready to Read funding limited libraries ability to implement best practices.

*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:* 2010-2011 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.**



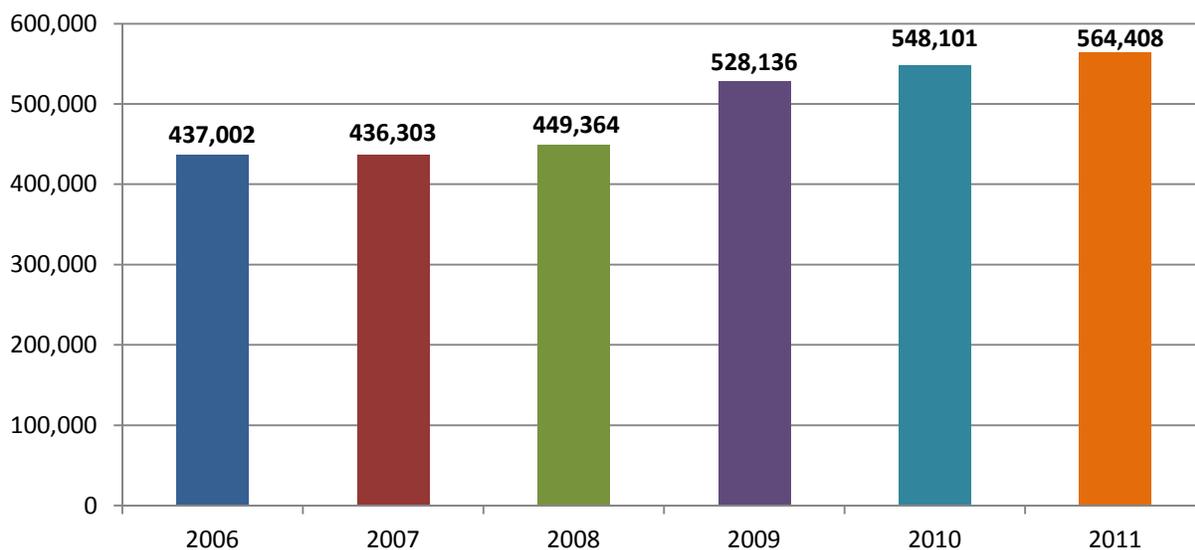
*What it measures:* The State Library identified three best practices in library services to children that research shows can have the greatest impact on reading proficiency. The three best practices are: services to children outside the library (outreach), summer reading programs, and early literacy training for parents and childcare providers. During the 2010-2011 grant cycle, 69 (54%) of the 128 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 worker 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. The reduction in Ready to Read funding limited libraries ability to implement 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 may provide all three youth services best practices, but not use the Ready to Read Grant to fund them all. 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**



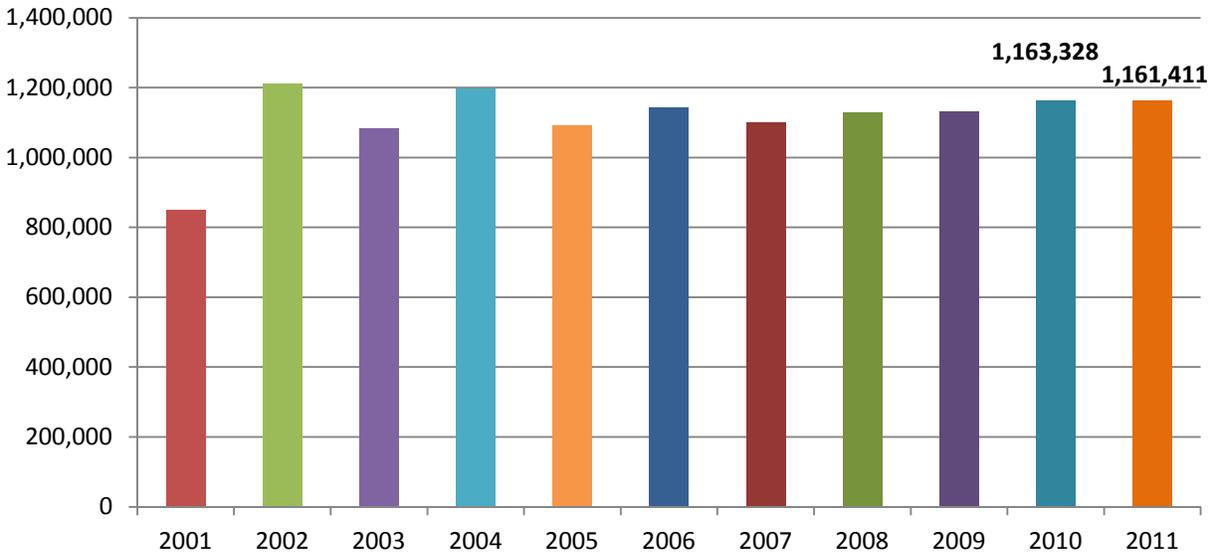
*What it measures:* During the 2010-2011 grant cycle 564,408 Oregon children lived in the service area of one of the 69 libraries receiving Ready to Read Grants that provided all three best practices.

*Factors affecting results:* An error in the process that was used to calculate this data in all previous years was detected while calculating the data for this year. The error was corrected and the data from 2006-2010 was recalculated. In 2010 and 2011 the number of libraries (69) providing all three best practices stayed the same, but the libraries changed. An equal number of libraries started and stopped providing all three best practices. The change in which libraries provide all three best practices resulted in an increase in children 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 2011, the Ready to Read Grant helped libraries provide 564,408 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).**



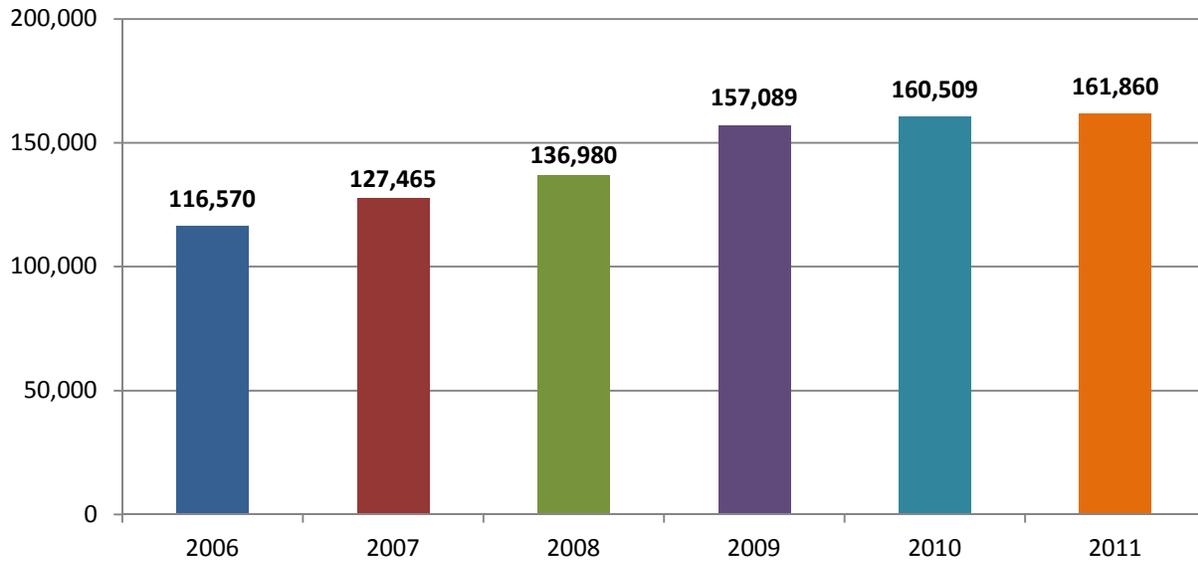
*What it measures:* During the 2010-2011 grant cycle 1,161,411 people attended children’s literacy programs presented by public libraries. Library literacy programs provide children with experiences that help them develop the skills they need to become proficient readers and a love for reading. They 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 reduction in Ready to Read funding limited 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.

*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 2010-2011 grant cycle 161,860 children and teens participated in a summer reading program at a public library in Oregon.

*Factors affecting results:* One hundred and six out of 128 libraries receiving grants used Ready to Read funds to support summer reading programs. The reduction in Ready to Read funding significantly limited many libraries' ability to offer the same level of summer reading programming, reading incentives, and promotional activities as they have in the past.

*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, 2010-2011 State Library's Summer Reading Survey.

## Best Practice Libraries in 2010-2011

*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	Harrisburg Public Library	Salem Public Library
Astoria Public Library	Helix Public Library	Sandy Public Library
Baker County Library District	Hermiston Public Library	Scappoose Public Library
Bandon Public Library	Hillsboro Public Library	Seaside Public Library
Beaverton City Library	Independence Public Library	Sherman County Public/School Library
Canby Public Library	Jackson County Library Services	Siuslaw Public Library District (Florence)
Cedar Mill Community Library*	Jefferson County Library District	Springfield Public Library
Chetco Community Public Library	Klamath County Library Services District	St Helens Public Library
Coos Bay Public Library	La Grande Public Library	Stayton 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 (Creswell)	Tillamook County Library
Cottage Grove Public Library	Lebanon Public Library	Ukiah Public Library
Dallas Public Library	Ledding Library (Milwaukie)	Waldport Public Library
Deschutes Public Library District	Mary Gilkey Public Library (Dayton)	Wallowa County Library
Douglas County Library System	McMinnville Public Library	Washington County Cooperative Library Services
Driftwood Public Library (Lincoln City)	Monmouth Public Library	West Linn Public Library
Estacada Public Library	Multnomah County Library	Weston Public Library
Eugene Public Library	Newberg Public Library	Willamina Public Library
Fern Ridge Library District	Newport Public Library	Wilsonville Public Library
Flora M. Laird Memorial Library (Myrtle Point)	North Bend Public Library	Woodburn Public Library
Forest Grove City Library	Oregon Trail Library District (Morrow County)	

*\*These are libraries that implement all three best practices, but receive their Ready to Read funding from a cooperative rather than directly from the State Library.*

## Outstanding Ready to Read Grant Projects for 2010-2011

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.**

**St. Helens Public Library:** \$1,561 state funds and \$640 library funds. Established a successful partnership with the high school teen parent program, provided new baby welcome bags that included board books and nursery rhymes to all parents with newborn children, increased participation in the summer reading program.

**Best Practice Library.**

**Weston Public Library:** \$1,000 state funds, \$1,000 library funds, and \$100 other funds. Hosted an early literacy open house for families with preschoolers which helped sustain storytime attendance throughout the year, provided a successful summer reading program.

**Best Practice Library**

**Ledding Library:** \$3,689 state funds, \$4,300 library funds, and \$5,869 other funds. Established early literacy outreach programs to teens and Spanish-speaking families. As a result, several teens and Spanish-speaking families started visiting the library regularly and participated in summer reading for the first time.

**Best Practice Library.**

**Union Carnegie Public Library:** \$1,000 state funds, \$450 library funds, and \$1,595 other funds. Worked with high school students to create and perform summer reading promotional skits for elementary school students and Head Start, increased summer reading participation.

**Lane Library District:** \$1,000 state funds, \$5,200 library funds, and \$2,000 other funds. Added a fund raiser component to the summer reading program which encouraged children to read to earn money for Heifer International. At the end of the summer the children voted to purchase 2 goats, 2 bee hives, 5 flocks of chicks, and 5 ducklings for needy families around the world. Total hours kids read in 2011 exceed previous years. **Best Practice Library**

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