

Schedule 13 Funding Request for the 2014-15 Budget Cycle

Department: Department of Human Services
 Request Title: Early Literacy Book Distribution Partnership
 Priority Number: R-3

Dept. Approval by: *Walt B...* 10-18-13
 Date

OSPB Approval by: *Erin N...* 10/22/13
 Date

- Decision Item FY 2014-15
- Base Reduction Item FY 2014-15
- Supplemental FY 2013-14
- Budget Amendment FY 2014-15

Line Item Information		FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15		FY 2015-16
		1	2	3	4	5
	Fund	Appropriation FY 2013-14	Supplemental Request FY 2013-14	Base Request FY 2014-15	Funding Change Request FY 2014-15	Continuation Amount FY 2015-16
Total of All Line Items	Total	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
	FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	GF	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
	CF	0	0	0	0	0
	RF	0	0	0	0	0
	FF	0	0	0	0	0
	MCF	0	0	0	0	0
	MGF	0	0	0	0	0
	NGF	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
(6) Office of Early Childhood, (A) Division of Early Care and Learning, Child Care Grants for Quality and Availability and Federal Targeted Funds Requirements	Total	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
	FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	GF	0	0	0	100,000	100,000
	CF	0	0	0	0	0
	RF	0	0	0	0	0
	FF	0	0	0	0	0
	MCF	0	0	0	0	0
	MGF	0	0	0	0	0
	NGF	0	0	0	100,000	100,000

Letternote Text Revision Required? Yes: No: If yes, describe the Letternote Text Revision:
 Cash or Federal Fund Name and COFRS Fund Number: N/A
 Reappropriated Funds Source, by Department and Line Item Name: N/A
 Approval by OIT? Yes: No: Not Required:
 Schedule 13s from Affected Departments: N/A
 Other Information: N/A

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Cost and FTE

- This request is for \$100,000 General Fund in FY 2014-15 and beyond to provide grant funding to organizations that promote early literacy by partnering with health care providers to distribute books to children ages six months to five years during well child checkups.

Current Program

- The Office of Early Childhood provides resources for children, families and early care professionals to promote quality early childhood programs and supports. The goal of the Office is to provide early supports and interventions so that Colorado children are ready for Kindergarten and reading at proficient levels by third grade.

Problem or Opportunity

- Despite research on the importance of reading with children from a young age, many parents do not read daily with their young children.
- Because children see their health care providers on average 10 times between age six months to five years old, health care providers have unique opportunities to advise parents on the importance of reading aloud to their infants and young children.

Consequences of Problem

- Reading aloud to young children helps to promote and develop language skills. If children miss the opportunity to acquire foundational language skills prior to starting school, they are set up to experience difficulties in learning to read.
- The percentage of students whose Transitional Colorado Assessment Program test results ranks unsatisfactory or partially proficient was 26.3 percent in 2013. Research indicates that children not reading proficiently at the end of third grade are at-risk for continued educational difficulties.

Proposed Solution

- Provide a contractor with a \$100,000 grant to distribute 11,540 new books to approximately 6,320 young children during their routine well child visit. When distributing the books, the health care providers will advise parents to read aloud to their children in order to promote their child's cognitive and literacy skills. The contractor will focus on expanding reading programs in counties that do not already have established programs. The program will primarily serve children living in families with incomes under 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

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State of Colorado
Department of Human Services
FY 2014-15 Funding Request
November 1, 2013

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Reggie Bicha
Executive Director

Department Priority: R-3
Request Detail: Early Literacy Book Distribution Partnership

Summary of Incremental Funding Change for FY 2014-15	Total Funds	General Fund
Early Literacy Book Distribution Partnership (new line item)	\$100,000	\$100,000

Request Summary:

The Department requests \$100,000 General Fund in FY 2014-15 and beyond to provide grant funding to organizations that promote early literacy by partnering with health care providers to distribute books to children ages six months to five years during well child check-ups.

Problem or Opportunity:

Because the majority of brain development occurs during a child's first five years of life, this is a critical time for children to develop early language and literacy skills. Reading aloud to children is one of the best ways to stimulate cognitive and language development. However, research shows that many children, especially those from low-income households, are not read to consistently by their parents.¹ Not being read to consistently in early childhood puts a child at-risk for developing later reading difficulties in school.

In the first five years of life, children more frequently see health care providers for immunizations and to be assessed for developmental milestones. During these well-child visits, health care providers have a unique opportunity to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud to their infants and young children in order to stimulate their child's cognitive, language, and social development.

Proposed Solution:

The Department request \$100,000 General Fund to establish a grant program to encourage early literacy by providing books to young children during routine medical exams. Specifically, the funding will allow a contractor to partner with doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud to their children and will place a developmentally-appropriate book

¹ New Survey: Only One in Three Parents Read Bedtime Stories with their Children Every Night (Survey commissioned by Reading is Fundamental, Harris Interactive 2013).

Russ S, Perez V, Garro N, Lass P, Kuo AA, Gershun M, Halfon N, Zuckerman B. "Reading Across the Nation: A Chartbook (2007)": Reach Out and Read National Center, Boston, MA.

with the children to take home and keep. The program will primarily target children age six months to age five with family incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

Anticipated Outcomes:

This funding request is based on the evidence-based model currently in use by Reach Out and Read Colorado. Reach Out and Read Colorado distributes more than 157,000 books to 86,000 children annually through 206 participating clinics in 48 counties. An investment of \$100,000 would allow an additional 11,540 books to be distributed to approximately 6,320 more children through their health care provider (a 7.3 percent increase). Furthermore, the increase investment would allow more health care providers serving low-income children throughout Colorado to join the program.

Reducing the number of children who enter school with inadequate early literacy skills is an important step to preventing later reading difficulties and promoting school success. Children in low-income families often have less access to printed materials in the home.² The children participating in the program from age six months through five years of age will have the potential of receiving 10 developmentally-appropriate books. Because of the trust parents place on advice from their child’s health care provider, parents will also be more likely to follow through with regular reading with their young children.³ Research shows that children’s oral language skills, vocabulary, and print concepts can all be enhanced by shared book reading between a child and parent.³

Assumptions and Calculations:

Table 1 below provides the estimates for the number of children served by the program and a cost breakdown for this funding request.

Table 1: Funding Request Details	
Number of Books Distributed	11,540
Estimate of Children Served*	6,320
<i>Direct Program Costs</i>	
--Cost of Books (\$2.60 / book)	\$30,004
--Health Provider Recruitment and Training	\$46,996
-- Program Evaluation	\$10,000
<i>Program Contractor Administration</i>	\$13,000
Total Costs	\$100,000

*Some children receive more than one book during a year because of multiple well child checks.

² Lindsay, Jim “Children’s Access to Print Material and Education-Related Outcomes: Findings from a Meta-analytic Review” Learning Point Associates (August 2010).

³ Duursma E., Augustyn M, Zuckerman B “Reading Aloud to Children: the Evidence” Arch Dis. Child June 2008; 93:554-557.