



## EARLY LANGUAGE & LITERACY MINI GRANT AWARDS JANUARY 2018

## ABOUT THE MINI GRANT AWARDEES

The Early Language and Literacy Mini Grant Program, a joint effort between the Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College, supports partnerships in projects targeting the language and literacy development needs of children ages zero to eight. For this grant round, traditional public schools, charter schools, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and community organizations could apply for grant funds. Eligible organizations could apply as a single entity and receive between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Alternatively, they could apply as multiple entities – allowing them to maximize the scope of their projects and receive between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for *each entity* included in the application. Therefore, some projects received more than \$20,000. However, the funding will support multiple agencies. The summaries below include the applicant(s) involved in each project as well as a description of each project's goals.

Applicant	ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Albany State University Early Language and Literacy Project
Program	The Albany State University (ASU) Early Learning Center, in partnership with the
Description	Dougherty County School System, the ASU Library System, the ASU College of
	Education, and other local child development centers, will implement an early
	childhood literacy program for children two-years old through Pre-K. The
	program's goal is to increase the percentage of Dougherty County students reading
	at or above their grade level target by the end of kindergarten.

Applicants	AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY, CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER OF
	SOUTHEAST GEORGIA, RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Award Amount	\$97,633.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Augusta University Early Literacy Program
Program	The Augusta University Early Literacy Program will support Richmond County
Description	child care programs that strive to deliver high-quality early care to children from
	birth through Pre-K. To accomplish this goal, it will provide training and resources
	to Richmond County School's Pre-K teachers to ensure students enter kindergarten
	ready to learn. In addition, the program will identify children who are struggling
	academically and behaviorally. These children will receive support through
	occupational therapy assessments and interventions targeting their social emotional
	and language and literacy development needs.

Applicant	SEMINOLE COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION
Award Amount	\$17,933.08
<b>Project Name</b>	Babies to Bookworms
Program	Seminole County Family Connection, in partnership with Donalsonville Hospital's
Description	Women's Center, will create an educational support group for expecting mothers.
	The support group will educate expecting mothers on topics such as early language
	exposure for babies, proper nutrition, and labor and delivery. New mothers will also
	receive supplies to help support their children's development and language and
	literacy needs, including board books, diapers, and wipes.

Applicant	PIEDMONT REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Barrow Book Partnership
Program	The Barrow Book Partnership (BBP) will improve the early literacy skills of children
Description	ages zero to five by promoting talking, reading, and interacting with children during
	their most critical stage of brain development. Specifically, BBP will provide parents
	and caregivers free books and connect them with free early literacy programs offered
	by their local public libraries.

Applicant	BARTOW LITERACY COUNCIL
Award Amount	\$18,400.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Bartow County Reading Outreach Program
Program	The Bartow Literacy Council will improve access to books for children ages five
Description	through eight by implementing "Little Libraries" across the county. It will also
	support children from low-income families through summer learning camps.

Applicant	McDuffie County Schools
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Beyond the Book
Program	Literacy champions – trained Pre-K through fifth grade teacher-leaders – will use
Description	materials from Scholastic, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia
	Department of Early Care and Learning, and Comprehensive Reading Solutions to
	create an age appropriate continuum of language and literacy development skills for
	children ages zero to eight. The Literacy Champions will also host monthly
	workshops that build the capacity of families to support their children's literacy
	development at home.

Applicant	DALTON STATE COLLEGE
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Beyond the School Year: Summer Literacy Camps
Program	Dalton State College's Summer Literacy Camps will combat the summer slide and
Description	build the literacy skills of 100 kindergarten through third grade children. In addition, approximately 60 pre-service teachers will receive literacy coaching as they help lead the Summer Literacy Camps – preparing them to teach literacy in their future classrooms.

Applicant	OUR HOUSE, INC
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Board Books and Booster Shots
Program	Board Books and Booster Shots will serve children experiencing homelessness in
Description	the Our House Early Childhood Education program. Specifically, the grant will
	allow Our House to purchase the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system for
	preschool teachers. In addition, nurse practitioners will provide free, specialized,
	and comprehensive health care to children through the Community Advanced
	Practice Nurses' Pediatric Comprehensive Assessment Program.

Applicant	JACOB'S LADDER EDUCATIONAL CENTER 1, JACOB'S LADDER EDUCATIONAL CENTER 2, SUNSHINE CHILDREN'S ACADEMY
Award Amount	\$59,994.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Born to Read
Program	Jacob's Ladder Educational Center 1, Jacob's Ladder Educational Center 2, and
Description	Sunshine Children's Academy will provide professional development training for its
	teachers. Specifically, the training will build teachers' capacity to properly use
	books, technology, and other materials to boost the literacy development of children
	ages zero to four. Teachers will then train parents and caregivers on these same
	strategies – enabling them to support their children's literacy development at home.

Applicant	BRYAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Award Amount	\$18,819.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Bright Beginnings Literacy Project
Program	The Bright Beginnings Literacy Project will train teachers of infant, toddler,
Description	preschool, and Pre-K classrooms to increase the level and quality of their students'
	vocabulary. In addition to teachers, these trainings will serve family members and
	representatives from Richmond Hill Public Library and the Bryan County Family
	Connection. Family members will receive information and resources to further build
	their children's literacy skills at home.

Applicants	Northwest Georgia RESA
	GORDON COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Belwood Elementary, Fairmount
	Elementary, Red Bud Elementary, Sonoraville Elementary, Tolbert Elementary, W.L
	Swain Elementary)
	POLK COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Cherokee Elementary, Eastside
	Elementary, Northside Elementary, Van Vert Elementary, Westside Elementary,
	Youngs Grove Elementary School)
	ROME CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Anna K Davies Elementary, East Central
	Elementary, North Heights Elementary, West Central Elementary, West End
	Elementary)
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$324,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Bright Little Minds
Program	Partnering with the Hanen Centre®, Bright Little Minds – comprised of Northwest
Description	Georgia RESA and elementary schools from the Gordon County School District,
	Rome City Schools, and the Polk County School District – will provide training on
	responsive strategies that accelerate children's development of communication skills.
	The project's main goal is to equip families, caregivers, teachers, and community
	partners with skills to take an active role in children's literacy development.

Applicant	LATIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL (FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS)
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Building Bridges to Reading
Program	Through Building Bridges to Reading, schools in the East Point Community will arm
Description	parents with resources to build their children's literacy skills at home. The program
	will target the parents of kindergarten through third grade students who are
	performing below grade level.

Applicants	CARROLLTON CITY SCHOOLS, CARROLLTON COUNTY EDUCATION
	COLLABORATIVE, CARROLL COUNTY FERST FOUNDATION FOR CHILDHOOD
	LITERACY, UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
Award Amount	\$73,762.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Carroll Early Learning Campaign
Program	The Carroll Early Learning Campaign will introduce parents and caregivers of young
Description	children to the importance of early language nutrition and arm them with skills to
	support their children's literacy development at home. Ultimately, this project aims
	to prepare students for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Applicant	CDF: A COLLECTIVE ACTION INITIATIVE
Award Amount	\$15,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Clarkson Literacy Project: Eat Move Talk!
Program	The Clarkson Literacy Project will use the Georgia Department of Health's Eat.
Description	Move. Talk! Curriculum to train 35 to 40 teachers. In addition, the project will
	promote language nutrition through a city-wide campaign reaching parents,
	caregivers, and community members.

Applicants	COOK COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, COOK COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, COOK
	COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION
Award Amount	\$60,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Cook County Reads
Program	Through a variety of strategies, Cook County Reads will unite the community in
Description	developing children's language and literacy skills. Specifically, Cook County Reads will organize monthly partnership meetings, leadership trainings, and stakeholder workshops facilitated by language and literacy experts. In addition, Cook County Reads will employ marketing strategies to educate, inform, and motivate partners around literacy.

Applicant	DISCOVERY POINT CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER #3
Award Amount	\$19,999.50
<b>Project Name</b>	Discovery Point Child Development Center #3 Early Language and Literacy Initiative
Program	Discovery Point Child Development Center's Early Language and Literacy Initiative
Description	will provide targeted professional development to early childhood educators. Its
	main goals are to develop classroom reading programs, increase the number of
	literacy resources in classrooms, and work with families to foster literacy at home.

Applicant	MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Eagle Express Mobile Classroom
Program	The Eagle Express Mobile Classroom will travel throughout Montgomery County
Description	boosting the reading skills of children from low-income families and children
	learning English as their second language. The Eagle Express Mobile Classroom
	will be staffed with a retired, certified teacher who will read aloud to students.
	These read alouds will also model reading and questioning strategies for parents to
	use at home.

Applicants	EARLY COUNTY SCHOOLS, EARLY COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION, HOLY FAMILY
	CATHOLIC CHURCH
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$60,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Early Birds
Program	The Early Birds Initiative will unite the community in improving early childhood
Description	language and literacy. Specifically, the initiative will support families with children
_	ages zero to eight develop positive parenting, relationship, and literacy development
	skills.

Applicants	DALTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DALTON STATE COLLEGE, NORTHWEST GEORGIA
	HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP, NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM,
	WHITFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Award Amount	\$91,390.00
<b>Project Name</b>	First Responders in Literacy
Program	First Responders in Literacy (FRIL) – a multisector coalition of five organizations –
Description	will provide comprehensive, holistic early intervention to children living in
	impoverished communities and children with limited English proficiency. To
	accomplish its goal, FRIL will work with Dalton Public School's Blue Ridge School,
	Park Creek School, and Roan School.

Applicants	FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, KIDS WORLD EARLY 1 LEARNING CENTER, KIDS WORLD 2 EARLY LEARNING CENTER, SUPERKIDS LEARNING CENTER
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$78,941.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Floyd County LION
Program	Floyd County LION will provide professional learning and coaching in vocabulary
Description	and language development and phonological and phonemic awareness. This project
	will impact Pre-K teachers and students in both the Floyd County School System and
	private child care centers.

Applicant	BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Get On the Bus
Program	Bulloch County Schools will bring literacy into the community through a bookmobile.
Description	Specifically, the bookmobile will target communities that lack access to language
	resources or are geographically distant from the local library. The bus will also
	provide books and educational activities to children ages zero to eight and their
	families.

Applicant	GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Getting Ready to Read!
Program	Gwinnett County Public Schools' (GCPS) Early Learning Specialists will get children
Description	ready to read through 40 three-hour, literacy-focused events held at GCPS Title I
	elementary schools or retail centers in low-income communities. During the events,
	Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) staff will lead story time activities designed
	to promote children's language development through music and dramatic storytelling.
	GCPL staff will also model these interactions for parents and provide resources that
	parents can use at home with their children.

Applicant	PLAY TO LEARN CONSULTING, INC.
Award Amount	\$19,879.53
<b>Project Name</b>	Hall County Early Childhood Language & Literacy Project
Program	The Hall County Early Childhood Language & Literacy Project will target four early
Description	learning centers that are either Quality Rated or are in the process of becoming
	Quality Rated. Specifically, classroom teachers in these learning centers will receive
	individualized coaching on strategies and techniques to promote effective language
	and literacy development. The project will also provide parent workshops.

Applicant	LITTLE ONES LEARNING CENTER
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Hand, Heart, and Soul Project: Feed Me 1001 Words
Program	The Hand, Heart, and Soul Project will support the language and literacy development
Description	of Clayton County children through several initiatives, including training, book clubs,
	and Literacy Nights. Specifically, the project will provide training to teachers and
	staff on promoting the language and literacy skills of infants, toddlers, and
	preschoolers. The project will also form two monthly book clubs – one for three to
	five-year old children at Forest Park Library and one for pre-kindergarten through
	second grade students at Huie Elementary School. Finally, the project will host
	monthly Literacy Nights featuring guest speakers with literacy expertise. Through
	this multi-tiered, community approach, the Hand, Heart, and Soul Project hopes to
	serve as a model for other communities

Applicant	NORTH GEORGIA RESA
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Helping Ensure that ALL Kids Can Read - One Cub at a Time
Program	Helping Ensure that ALL Kids Can Read - One Cub at a Time will provide
Description	community support to Coker Elementary School kindergarten through second grade
	students reading below grade level. Specifically, members of the local Kiwanis Club
	will visit designated classrooms for a minimum of sixty minutes each week to support
	identified students.

Applicant	COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	It Takes a Village
Program	The Columbia County School System (CCSS), in partnership with Family
Description	Connections, will connect families with local language and literacy resources.
	Specifically, CCSS will host summer activities for 40 economically disadvantaged
	kindergarten through second grade students from North Harlem Elementary School.
	These activities will occur at the Harlem Branch Library, located in a high-poverty
	area of the community – providing students easy access to the program.

Applicants	CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$19,725.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Jacket Junction Mobile Learning Lab
Program	The Jacket Junction Mobile Learning Lab will bring literacy into the community by
Description	exposing families to a literacy-rich environment. High school students enrolled in the
	third level of the Education Pathway will operate the lab under the supervision of their
	teacher. The lab will travel into the local housing authority properties twice a week
	for four hours. During this time, high school students will provide language rich adult-
	child interactions through literacy centers.

Applicant	JONES COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	JoCoLa - Have a Bookmobile and a Smile!
Program	In partnership with the Jones County Book Room, the Jones County School System
Description	will repurpose a school bus as the JoCoLa Bookmobile. The JoCoLa Bookmobile will
	deliver free books to Jones County students at a variety of community locations.

Applicant	SOUND START: AUDITORY-ORAL DEAF PRESCHOOL
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$10,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Language and Literacy Improvement Plan
Program	The Sound Start Auditory-Oral Deaf Preschool will implement a literacy program
Description	aimed at improving deaf students' language skills, including vocabulary, fluency,
	comprehension, and phonemic awareness.

Applicant	CANDY CANE'S LEARNING CENTER
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Leaping Language and Literacy Project
Program	Candy Cane's Learning Center will implement the Leaping Literacy and Language
Description	Storyteller Program – designed to encourage parents to become active readers with
	children ages zero to four. During one-hour sessions, an instructor will teach and
	model literacy techniques, such as previewing the book and asking children
	meaningful questions.

Applicants	LEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, LEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LEE
	COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION, LEE COUNTY LIBRARY, LEE COUNTY RETIRED
	EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$100,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Literate Lee
Program	The Lee County School System, in partnership with several Lee County institutions,
Description	will prepare three-year old children from low-income families for success in Pre-K
	and beyond. The program will target children who are not attending a formalized pre-
	school program but will be eligible to enroll in a Georgia Pre-K Program in fall 2019.

Applicant	ARBOR STATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM)
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$5,948.50
<b>Project Name</b>	Mr. Bruno's Crew of Readers
Program	Arbor Station Elementary School and volunteers from the Central Baptist Church will
Description	create a morning mentoring club to work with kindergarten through third grade
	students experiencing academic or behavioral challenges.

Applicant	MURRAY COUNTY SCHOOLS
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Murray Reads
Program	The Murray Reads program will provide books to families with children ages zero to
Description	eight during the summer months. In partnership with the Murray County School
	System's Nutrition Department's summer feeding program, parents will be able to
	easily pick up books when they drop off or pick up their child.

Applicant	THOMASVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Award Amount	\$16,200.00
<b>Project Name</b>	On Fire for Literacy
Program	On Fire for Literacy will use grant funds to purchase tablets for its preschool students
Description	and teachers. Students will use tablets in school and at home with the
	Footsteps2Brilliance app – creating independent digital learning experiences that
	promote language and literacy skill development.

Applicant	DEKALB LIBRARY FOUNDATION
Award Amount	\$11,451.27
<b>Project Name</b>	PRIMETIME Preschool
Program	PRIMETIME Preschool introduces young children and their families to the
Description	humanities and literature through age-appropriate storytelling and literary exploration
	via center-based play. The DeKalb Library Foundation will partner with the DeKalb
	County Public Library to offer PRIMETIME Preschool three times between fall 2018
	and 2019.

Applicant	EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, SPRINGFIELD CENTRAL HIGH
	SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PARENT UNIVERSITY
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$38,944.37
<b>Project Name</b>	PUE/BOE Reading Initiative
Program	This initiative is designed to strengthen the relationship between Springfield
Description	Elementary School first grade students and their fathers or male caregivers. Parents
	and children will engage in language-rich, interactive activities that will improve
	children's literacy skills and parents' awareness of those skills.

Applicant	HANCOCK COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTIONS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$19,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Read, Read to Succeed
Program	Hancock County Family Connections will develop a reading lab at Marvin E. Lewis
Description	Senior Elementary School to offer literacy resources to kindergarten through third
	grade students and parents.

Applicant	UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL GEORGIA
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Read United
Program	Read United will provide parents and children access to a literacy-rich environment
Description	during the summer. The program will establish stations at the Boys & Girls Club and
	summer feeding sites throughout Baldwin County, Bibb County, and Jones County.

Applicant	JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$18,092.75
<b>Project Name</b>	Read with Me Using Technology
Program	Read with Me Using Technology will provide students access to digital resources that
Description	will help develop their literacy and critical thinking skills. The program will increase
	access to digital tools in ten classrooms and help teachers incorporate Daily 5 literacy
	strategies and the RazPlus online platform.

Applicant	SEQUOYAH REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM, CHEROKEE COUNTY LIBRARIES
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$21,047.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Sequoyah Regional Library System Language Development from Birth to Age Four Project
Program	The Sequoyah Regional Library System (SRLS) and Cherokee County Libraries aim
Description	to increase verbal interactions between parents or caregivers and their children, ages zero to four. Specifically, SRLS will provide parents, caregivers, and children access
	to language development tools and wearable word counters.

Applicant	CHILDREN MUSEUM OF ATLANTA
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Spread the Word Community Expansion
Program	Children's Museum of Atlanta, in partnership with the Rollins Center for Language
Description	and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, will create a pipeline for literacy and
	learning for parents and teachers of children birth to age five. The program will
	include parent workshops and field trips that allow parents to practice literacy skills.
	Additionally, teachers from Boyd Elementary School and Scott Elementary School
	will receive training on language nutrition and development skills.

Applicants	ATLANTA FULTON FAMILY CONNECTION, NEW CALVARY COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
Award Amount	\$38,500.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Strong Community Development for Literacy Success
Program	This program will provide parents and children access to healthy foods and
Description	environments that support child development and promote literacy success. The program's mission is to engage 500 families in literacy and health-focused community events.

Applicant	TAYLOR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY HEAD START, PINE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM, TAYLOR COUNTY HEAD START, TAYLOR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$79,032.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Taylor Reads
Program	The Taylor Reads program will implement the Footsteps2Brilliance curriculum to
Description	increase kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. The program's goal is to prepare all Taylor County children for kindergarten and ensure they are reading on grade level by third grade.

Applicant	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	VIP - Very Important Preschoolers
Program	The Very Important Preschoolers (VIP) program will offer parents of children ages
Description	three to five monthly literacy workshops and provide them with take-home activities
	to practice the workshop content.

Applicant	TWIGGS COUNTY SCHOOLS
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	The Vitamin Reading and Literacy Project in Twiggs
Program	The Vitamin Reading and Literacy Project in Twiggs will increase the language
Description	nutrition of two- and three-year-old siblings of current Twiggs County Public School
	students. The district will select a minimum of ten families to participate in the two-
	year project.

Applicant	CONCERTED SERVICES INC., WAYCROSS
Award Amount	\$16,600.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Ware Nurturing Parents Literacy Program
Program	The Ware Nurturing Parents Literacy Program will offer ten workshops to parents and
Description	caregivers to provide them with strategies to incorporate literacy into everyday
	activities. The program aims to work with 40 low-income families.

Applicant	WARE COUNTY FERST FOUNDATION
Award Amount	\$19,800.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Ware Reads
Program	The Ware Reads program aims to increase access to age-appropriate children's
Description	literature and to improve the quality and quantity of parent-child interactions. The
	program's goal is for at-risk children to improve their reading skills and overall
	academic achievement.

Applicants	WASHINGTON COUNTY NB & PW CLUB, KANGAROO POUCH CHILD DEVELOPMENT
	CENTER, WASHINGTON COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$45,060.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Washington County Early Language & Literacy Project
Program	The Washington County Early Language and Literacy (WELL) Project will provide
Description	language and literacy instruction through evidence-informed skills, knowledge, and
	resources. The mission is to engage children birth to age four in diverse language and
	literacy opportunities that maximize their potential.