

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
Project Name	Albany State University Early Language and Literacy Project
Program Description	The Albany State University (ASU) Early Learning Center, in partnership with the 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
Project Name	Augusta University Early Literacy Program
Program Description	The Augusta University Early Literacy Program will support Richmond County 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
Project Name	Babies to Bookworms
Program Description	Seminole County Family Connection, in partnership with Donalsonville Hospital's 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 Description	The Barrow Book Partnership (BBP) will improve the early literacy skills of children 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
Project Name	Bartow County Reading Outreach Program
Program Description	The Bartow Literacy Council will improve access to books for children ages five 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Beyond the Book
Program Description	Literacy champions – trained Pre-K through fifth grade teacher-leaders – will use 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
Project Name	Beyond the School Year: Summer Literacy Camps
Program Description	Dalton State College's Summer Literacy Camps will combat the summer slide and 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
Project Name	Board Books and Booster Shots
Program Description	Board Books and Booster Shots will serve children experiencing homelessness in 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
Project Name	Born to Read
Program Description	Jacob's Ladder Educational Center 1, Jacob's Ladder Educational Center 2, and 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	RICHMOND HILL MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL
Award Amount	\$18,819.00
Project Name	Bright Beginnings Literacy Project
Program Description	The Bright Beginnings Literacy Project will train teachers of infant, toddler, 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, Elm Street Elementary, North Heights Elementary, West Central Elementary, West End Elementary)
Award Amount	\$324,000.00
Project Name	Bright Little Minds
Program Description	Partnering with the Hanen Centre®, Bright Little Minds – comprised of Northwest 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Building Bridges to Reading
Program Description	Through Building Bridges to Reading, schools in the East Point Community will arm 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
Project Name	Carroll Early Learning Campaign
Program Description	The Carroll Early Learning Campaign will introduce parents and caregivers of young 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
Project Name	Clarkson Literacy Project: Eat Move Talk!
Program Description	The Clarkson Literacy Project will use the Georgia Department of Health's Eat. 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
Project Name	Cook County Reads
Program Description	Through a variety of strategies, Cook County Reads will unite the community in 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
Project Name	Discovery Point Child Development Center #3 Early Language and Literacy Initiative
Program Description	Discovery Point Child Development Center's Early Language and Literacy Initiative 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Eagle Express Mobile Classroom
Program Description	The Eagle Express Mobile Classroom will travel throughout Montgomery County 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
Award Amount	\$60,000.00
Project Name	Early Birds
Program Description	The Early Birds Initiative will unite the community in improving early childhood 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
Project Name	First Responders in Literacy
Program Description	First Responders in Literacy (FRIL) – a multisector coalition of five organizations – 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
Award Amount	\$78,941.00
Project Name	Floyd County LION
Program Description	Floyd County LION will provide professional learning and coaching in vocabulary 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Get On the Bus
Program Description	Bulloch County Schools will bring literacy into the community through a bookmobile. 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
Project Name	Getting Ready to Read!
Program Description	Gwinnett County Public Schools' (GCPS) Early Learning Specialists will get children 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
Project Name	Hall County Early Childhood Language & Literacy Project
Program Description	The Hall County Early Childhood Language & Literacy Project will target four early 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Hand, Heart, and Soul Project: Feed Me 1001 Words
Program Description	The Hand, Heart, and Soul Project will support the language and literacy development 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Helping Ensure that ALL Kids Can Read - One Cub at a Time
Program Description	Helping Ensure that ALL Kids Can Read - One Cub at a Time will provide 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
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	It Takes a Village
Program Description	The Columbia County School System (CCSS), in partnership with Family 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
Award Amount	\$19,725.00
Project Name	Jacket Junction Mobile Learning Lab
Program Description	The Jacket Junction Mobile Learning Lab will bring literacy into the community by 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
Project Name	JoCoLa - Have a Bookmobile and a Smile!
Program Description	In partnership with the Jones County Book Room, the Jones County School System 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
Award Amount	\$10,000.00
Project Name	Language and Literacy Improvement Plan
Program Description	The Sound Start Auditory-Oral Deaf Preschool will implement a literacy program 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
Project Name	Leaping Language and Literacy Project
Program Description	Candy Cane's Learning Center will implement the Leaping Literacy and Language 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
Award Amount	\$100,000.00
Project Name	Literate Lee
Program Description	The Lee County School System, in partnership with several Lee County institutions, 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)
Award Amount	\$5,948.50
Project Name	Mr. Bruno's Crew of Readers
Program Description	Arbor Station Elementary School and volunteers from the Central Baptist Church will 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 Description	The Murray Reads program will provide books to families with children ages zero to 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
Project Name	On Fire for Literacy
Program Description	On Fire for Literacy will use grant funds to purchase tablets for its preschool students 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
Project Name	PRIMETIME Preschool
Program Description	PRIMETIME Preschool introduces young children and their families to the 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
Award Amount	\$39,144.38
Project Name	PUE/BOE Reading Initiative
Program Description	This initiative is designed to strengthen the relationship between Springfield 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 CONNECTION
Award Amount	\$19,000.00
Project Name	Read, Read, Read to Succeed
Program Description	Hancock County Family Connection will develop a reading lab at Marvin E. Lewis Senior Elementary School to offer literacy resources to kindergarten through third grade students and parents.

Applicant	UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL GEORGIA
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Read United
Program Description	Read United will provide parents and children access to a literacy-rich environment 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
Award Amount	\$18,092.75
Project Name	Read with Me Using Technology
Program Description	Read with Me Using Technology will provide students access to digital resources that 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
Award Amount	\$21,047.00
Project Name	Sequoyah Regional Library System Language Development from Birth to Age Four Project
Program Description	The Sequoyah Regional Library System (SRLS) and Cherokee County Libraries aim 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’S MUSEUM OF ATLANTA
Award Amount	\$20,000.00
Project Name	Spread the Word Community Expansion
Program Description	Children’s Museum of Atlanta, in partnership with the Rollins Center for Language 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
Project Name	Strong Community Development for Literacy Success
Program Description	This program will provide parents and children access to healthy foods and 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
Award Amount	\$79,032.00
Project Name	Taylor Reads
Program Description	The Taylor Reads program will implement the Footsteps2Brilliance curriculum to 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	WHITESBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS)
Award Amount	\$6,592.59
Project Name	VIP - Very Important Preschoolers
Program Description	The Very Important Preschoolers (VIP) program will offer parents of children ages 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
Project Name	The Vitamin Reading and Literacy Project in Twiggs
Program Description	The Vitamin Reading and Literacy Project in Twiggs will increase the language 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
Project Name	Ware Nurturing Parents Literacy Program
Program Description	The Ware Nurturing Parents Literacy Program will offer ten workshops to parents and 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
Project Name	Ware Reads
Program Description	The Ware Reads program aims to increase access to age-appropriate children’s 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
Award Amount	\$45,060.00
Project Name	Washington County Early Language & Literacy Project
Program Description	The Washington County Early Language and Literacy (WELL) Project will provide 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.