

Department: Library **Program Contact:** Renea Arnold

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Measure 5 Education, In Target

Executive Summary

The Every Child Initiative prepares children for kindergarten by providing 1) education, motivation and support for parents and caregivers to provide meaningful language and literacy experiences that foster children's brain development, and early literacy skills which build the foundation for learning to read, 2) engaging programs and hands-on literacy activities that open up the wonder of stories, music, culture and play, and 3) an enthusiastic and dedicated professional staff eager to help children fall in love with reading. Services are directed toward families living in poverty and those learning English.

Program Summary

The Every Child staff, who are trained in child development, brain development, and early reading research, visit parents and caregivers in social service agencies, childcare centers, Head Start centers, teen parent programs, treatment facilities, and other locations serving adults with children birth to age five. They teach parents and caregivers easy techniques to prepare their preschool children for learning to read. Classes, taught in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese, show adults how to read, talk, sing, and rhyme with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers so that children develop the pre-reading skills they need before they enter kindergarten.

From birth to age five, children go through a critical window for brain development that supports literacy. Reading, talking, singing, playing, writing and rhyming with children during this sensitive time determines a child's future as a reader. Many parents and caregivers don't know how early this window opens—and closes—and how tremendous an impact simple actions can have on their children's future ability to read. Children must have early experiences with language, books, and writing tools to become successful readers.

Research shows that children most at risk for being unprepared for kindergarten are those who live in poverty, speak English as a second language, have few books in their homes, and whose mothers have limited education and/or low literacy. These children start kindergarten with significantly lower cognitive skills than their more advantaged peers because they likely lacked the opportunity to have rich language and literacy experiences in the five years BEFORE they went to school. The Every Child Initiative reaches these parents on-site and shows them easy ways to help their children gain pre-reading skills during these most important years. Program evaluations show that parents and caregivers gain clear knowledge of their role in their children's preparedness for reading.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY13 Actual	FY14 Purchased	FY14 Estimate	FY15 Offer
Output	The number of parents, caregivers, and adults served in Every Child Initiative outreach	10,676	14,000	12,532	14,000
Outcome	% of participants who show an increase in five reading and literacy activities	90%	90%	88%	90%
Output	The number of books circulated in Every Child Initiative	2,232,207	2,400,000	1,000,000	2,200,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

Output: The number of parents, caregivers, and adults served in all Every Child Initiative outreach, including those who receive welcome baby gifts in the hospital when their first child is born.

Outcome: The evaluation measures an increase in five behaviors: 1. Encourage child to participate more often; 2. Point out pictures and talk about them; 3. Read the book more than once; 4. Ask or answer questions while reading; 5. Talk about new words.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The budget reflects the passage of Measure 26-143: "Form Library District with permanent rate to fund library services," November 2012 General Election. The district summary states in pertinent part: "If approved, the Multnomah County Library District would be formed with a permanent rate dedicated to library services, operations, books, materials, programs, activities and oversight of the district. Formation of a District would ... prevent reductions in services, programs and activities, and hours."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2014	2014	2015	2015
Personnel	\$0	\$745,014	\$0	\$538,749
Contractual Services	\$0	\$11,500	\$0	\$8,500
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$172,963	\$0	\$121,900
Internal Services	\$0	\$28,163	\$0	\$24,105
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$957,640	\$0	\$693,254
Program Total:	\$957,640		\$693,254	
Program FTE	0.00	7.50	0.00	5.50

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

The revenue allocated to this program offer reflects an intergovernmental service reimbursement from the Library District (99.6%) and resources from the County's Library Fund (0.4%). It represents a pro-rated share of property taxes (96%) and other revenues such as overdue fines, delinquent library levy taxes, interest earnings, grants, and user charges for services provided to library patrons (4%).

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: 80004 Early Childhood Services

No significant changes. Net reduction of 2.0 FTE due to funding pending from The Library Foundation.