

Department: Library

Program Contact: Renea Arnold

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program

Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Measure 5 Education

Executive Summary

The Every Child Initiative (ECI) prepares children for kindergarten by offering education, motivation and support for parents and caregivers to provide language and literacy experiences that foster children's brain development and early literacy skills. This builds the foundation for learning to read. Experts in early learning and literacy, ECI staff deliver engaging programs and hands-on literacy activities that open up the wonder of stories, music, culture and play. 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	FY16 Actual	FY17 Purchased	FY17 Estimate	FY18 Offer
Output	The number of parents, caregivers, and adults served in Every Child Initiative outreach	20,181	14,000	16,000	16,000
Outcome	% of participants who show an increase in five reading and literacy activities	86%	85%	85%	85%
Output	Number of books circulated in Every Child Initiative	1,658,524	1,600,000	1,650,000	1,650,000

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	2017	2017	2018	2018
Personnel	\$0	\$795,719	\$0	\$805,095
Contractual Services	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$15,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$227,751	\$0	\$234,867
Internal Services	\$0	\$39,271	\$0	\$41,409
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$1,080,741	\$0	\$1,096,371
Program Total:	\$1,080,741		\$1,096,371	
Program FTE	0.00	7.50	0.00	7.50

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 (99.96%) and resources from the County's Library Fund (0.04%). It represents a pro-rated share of property taxes (97.35%) and other revenues such as overdue fines, interest earnings, grants, and user charges for services provided to library patrons (2.65%).

Pending amendment for revenue from The Library Foundation for Every Child A Reader program and other early literacy programs, which will be received as Library District revenue and disbursed through the District's intergovernmental service reimbursement.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2017: 80004 Every Child Initiative

No significant changes.

1.50 FTE pending support from The Library Foundation.