

Reply to Common Council File No. 011346

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

February 4, 2002

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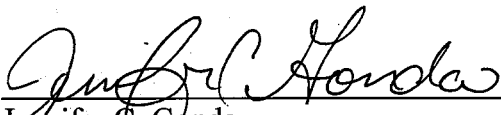
Common Council file 011346 is a resolution from the Milwaukee Public Library relative to the acceptance and funding of a Books on the Go: Outreach to Milwaukee Preschoolers grant. This continuing grant, funded by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, will allow the Milwaukee Public Library to target high-risk preschoolers cared for in daycare settings.

Working with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, this program offers educational opportunities to childcare providers on the importance of exposing children to reading at the earliest age possible. The program's outreach coordinator then makes follow up visits to the providers in order to encourage them to create libraries in their centers and to use the library's resources.

While the direct long-term impact of this program is difficult to determine, numerous studies show that exposure to reading, books, and libraries is critical for developing literacy skills in children aged five and under. The library wants to use this program to reach as many children as possible by distributing books and materials to families with young children who do not currently use the Library. During the first months of the program, 106 daycare providers participated in the program that served 636 children.

This is the third year of a three-year Library Services and Technology (LSTA) grant. The 2002 Books on the Go Grant is in the amount of \$78,245, with the grantor providing \$73,900 and the library providing an in-kind contribution of \$4,345. The in-kind contribution is comprised entirely of existing staff time and was contemplated in the 2002 adopted budget. The grant period is from January 30, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 011346 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO ACCEPT AND FUND THE BOOKS ON THE GO GRANT OFFERED BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.


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