

Reply to Common Council File No. 010474

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

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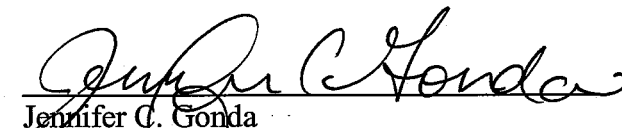
Common Council file 010474 is a resolution from the Milwaukee Public Library relative to the application for a Books on the Go: Outreach to Milwaukee Preschoolers grant. This continuing grant, funded by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, will allow the Milwaukee Public Library to 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 age 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 currently do not 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 three-year LSTA grant. The 2001 Books on the Go Grant was in the amount of \$79,725, with the grantor providing \$74,900 and the library providing an in-kind contribution of \$4,825. This year's grant will most likely be of similar value. The in-kind contribution is comprised entirely of existing staff time. There is no new city funding required for this grant.

**RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 010474 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR THE BOOKS ON THE GO GRANT.**

  
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