

**LRB –RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION**

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ITEM 9, FILE 051290**

**JANUARY 31, 2006**

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File #051209 is a resolution relative to the acceptance and funding of a Library ala Carte – Homebound Service for Seniors Grant. (Milwaukee Public Library)

**Background and Discussion**

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept and fund a Library ala Carte-Homebound Service for Seniors Grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the project is provide Milwaukee’s homebound senior citizens with access to the Library and its resources through a home-delivery program. *This is a new grant.*
2. As a pilot project, MPL will partner with Goodwill Industries, which administers the Meals on Wheels program, to provide Milwaukee’s homebound senior citizens with access to the Library’s materials. Meals on Wheels drivers will distribute invitations, applications, reading interest surveys and library card applications to approximately 150 homebound seniors along with their regular meal.
3. Library staff will maintain their reading interest records, gather materials, check them out to the patrons, package them for homebound delivery and take them to the Meals on Wheels distribution site. The Meals on Wheels drivers will pick up the library materials when they pick up the meals, delivery them to the homebound seniors and assist in the return of library items from prior visits.
4. Grant funding will provide the financial support for start-up supplies, additional library materials, printed materials and staff training. The supplies include large print books, CD’s, DVD’s, audiobooks, videocassettes, adult photo essay books and canvas bags to carry the materials to and from the meal distribution site.

**Fiscal Impact**

1. The total for the Library ala Carte – Homebound Service for Seniors grant is \$61,900. The grantor share is \$25,000, (40%) and the City in-kind share is \$36,900 (60%).
2. The grant provides funding for supplies and materials, library materials, advertising and training.
3. The grant period is from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. The timetable of the program includes January through March for planning and development with partners, purchasing supplies, training staff, distributing information and beginning the service; April through August for reviewing the service and adjusting as needed, and purchasing additional material; and September through December to continue service, review the pilot program and make recommendations for 2007 and develop year-end reports.

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