

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ITEM 8, FILE 051289

JANUARY 31, 2006

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File #051289 is a resolution relative to acceptance and funding of a Ready to Read with Books2 Go Grant. (Milwaukee Public Library)

Background and Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept and fund a Ready to Read with Books2Go Grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the project is to expand outreach library services to preschoolers in cooperation with their childcare providers. *This is the yearly continuation of the Books2Go grant of 2000.*
2. The grant supports the city-wide strategic goals to foster and focus on the educational needs of children, to strengthen the literacy rate and expand services to youth and single parent households. It also supports MPL’s objectives to provide materials and services for Milwaukee citizens, expand and diversify the collection for a target audience and promote library services, resources to the community by usage and support.
3. The program includes contacts and visits to daycare centers, delivering “Books To Go” backpacks, facilitating library card distribution and scheduling story time at a library. In 2005, the program focused on 18 child care centers, 15 English speaking and 3 bilingual Spanish sites. In 2006, the Ready to Read project will be offered to 20 new sites when the 18 original sites complete their 12 month participation. The continued enhanced program, developed by the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC), has a strong emphasis on 6 skills necessary in developing pre-literacy skills in young children. The 6 skills include narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary, print motivation, and phonological awareness. Studies show how critical it is for children age five and under to be exposed to reading for developing literacy skills.
4. MPL will partner with Wisconsin Early Childcare Association (WECA), MATC and 4C’s in offering credits toward certification for the childcare providers or teacher continuing education credits. The library will also work with those groups, hospitals, head start partner agencies and childcare centers to provide training to the parents.

Fiscal Impact

1. The total for the Ready to Read with Books2Go grant is \$85,341. The grantor share is, \$70,040 (82%), and the City in-kind share, \$15,301 (18%).
2. The grant provides funding for supplies and materials, library material, a consultant, advertising and training.
3. The grant period is from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

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