



Innovation Project Application

Library: Apalachicola Margaret Key Library

Project Manager: Jill Rourke

Phone: 850-653-8436

Email: amklibrary2017@gmail.com

Name of Project: Your Library, Too! -- Serving Marginalized Populations

Project Amount requested: \$4,000.00

Scope of the Project: Three specific populations have been identified in our service area that receive little or no accommodation for library services. These include children with physical and mental disabilities and their parents; adults with physical and mental disabilities and their caregivers; and the homebound infirm. To provide these populations good, consistent service will entail a two prong approach: creating an environment in the library that is welcoming, familiar, useful and inspiring; and providing outreach services via a thoughtful, recognizable and easily maintained means.

What need in the library/community will this project address?

The need for library services for three marginalized populations in the community has been identified and would be addressed by this grant. **For children with physical and mental disabilities [differently-abled is preferred] and their caregivers**, the library will offer three specific activities: a bi-monthly interactive story time provided by the Children's Library Associate, Audie Pieper. Ms. Pieper has a MA degree in Elementary Education with a graduate certification in Special Education. Partnering with the Library is Mindy Parker, Early Steps program coordinator. With a portion of the grant funds, the library will purchase toys and assistive technology designed specifically for differently-abled children. In addition, the grant will be used to purchase a wall mounted sensory play board and a free standing sensory cube that encourage macro and fine motor skill development.

As added value, these items may be used by all children - not just the target population - and will encourage social interaction among all children. Parents will be provided opportunity for constructive learning and sharing. This will include a review of the "Buddy Bags", backpacks for checkout that include stories, appropriate manipulatives, games and other resources geared toward differently-abled children.

Programs for **adults who are differently-abled and their caregivers** will include reading aloud, oral storytelling and sharing, appropriate activities to encourage retention of macro and fine motor skills, and social interaction. Caregivers will be provided opportunity for constructive learning and sharing, including review of the "FunPax," backpacks for checkout that include stories, appropriate manipulatives, games and other resources geared toward differently-abled adults.

The final part of this project is to develop **a mobile library** to serve both permanent and temporarily homebound patrons. The library has come into possession of the original Apalachicola Post Office mail delivery bicycle from the 1940's. This is a heavy duty bike built to carry a fair load but is in need of rehabilitation. This includes some welding repair, a new seat, tires and paint, and modifications to accommodate a detachable water-proof trailer. Working with Elder Care Community Council [ECCC] of Franklin County, the library staff and volunteers will stock the "library on wheels" and use it for weekly deliveries of library materials for permanently and temporarily homebound patrons. Items will be delivered in custom book bags for both easy delivery and retrieval. Bag and materials requests will be taken via email and telephone; request sheets will also be placed in each delivered bag. As added value, the bicycle [of local historical significance] will be used as a marketing and outreach tool, appearing in parades and working as a charging station and mobile hotspot at local festivals.

Resources required:

	Grant Funds	Other Funds/In-Kind
One [1] wall mount sensory play board [macro & micro motor skills development]	\$700.00	
One [1] freestanding sensory play cube [macro & micro motor skills development]	\$600.00	
Fifteen [15] child "Book Buddy" backpacks that include developmentally appropriate books, manipulatives, games, and parental information 15 x \$30 per bag	\$450.00	
Fifteen [15] adult "FunPax" backpacks that include developmentally appropriate books, manipulatives, games, and caregiver information 15 x \$30 per bag	\$450.00	
Twenty [20] library logo bags to hold library materials and manipulatives for homebound delivery. 20 X \$10 per bag		\$200.00
Thirty [30] library logo "Book Buddy" and "FunPax" backpacks 30 X \$10 per bag		\$300.00
Rehabilitation of historic post office bicycle as a mobile library, including purchase of mobile trailer	\$1800.00	
Composite staff time for development, marketing and implementation of programs 115 hours x \$17 per hour		\$1995.00
Volunteer hours for implementation of programs 161 hours x \$15 per hour		\$2415.00
Bi-annual maintenance of library bike 2 visits per year x \$100 per visit		\$200.00
Total	\$4000.00	\$5,110.00

Activities/Timeline (include estimated completion date):

December 2018/January 2019

- Announce receipt of award

January 2019

- Develop four [4] six-week cycle thematic story time programs for target audience
- Develop simple evaluation /improvement tool for attendees
- Purchase and install sensory board and sensory cube
- Purchase custom backpacks and book delivery bags
- Purchase material for Buddy bags and FunPax

February 2019

- Host Buddy Bags and FunPax stuffing party with PALS [Friends of the Library]
- Contract for rehabilitation of bicycle [repair, modification, custom paint]
- Purchase bicycle trailer
- Develop press materials for story time launch

March 2019

- Launch homebound delivery via book bike

May 2019

- Compile and collate evaluation information, including attendance rates, use statistics and anecdotal information. Submit final financial and midterm evaluation report.

December 2019

- Submit final evaluation and assessment of program, including lessons learned.

How will the library sustain this project?

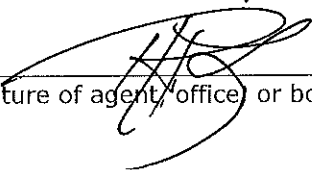
PALS [Friend of the Library] is committed to sustaining book bags and delivery bags through annual refreshment and replacement of materials as requested by the library director. PALS volunteers are also committed to cleaning and restocking backpacks and delivery bags when returned to the library.

The local bike shop is committed to an in-kind donation of twice annual bicycle maintenance for a period of five years.

A local printer is committed to printing initial backpacks and delivery bags with library logo at cost.

Library staff is committed to developing and maintaining positive, proactive partnerships with Early Steps and the ECCC through continuous assessment. Staff is also committed to creating and delivering fun, interactive story programs for both children and adults who are differently-abled.

Library Director's signature:  Date: Nov 6th/2018

 BOARD CHAIR Date: Nov 7, 2018
Signature of agent/office or board to whom the Director reports

For PLAN use only:

Approved _____ Not Approved _____

PLAN Executive Director _____