Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Dear Library Director and Ready to Read Key Contact,

Enclosed are the 2016 Ready to Read grant application materials. Use the list of proposed grants to find out how much money to apply for—you may not apply for more or less money. Use the grant guidelines, definitions sheet, and description of evaluation options to help you fill-out the grant application.

The proposed changes to the grant program were not passed by the Legislature, but there are many changes to the application so please read all these materials carefully.

Key changes to the 2016 Ready to Read grant application materials:
- Instead of a menu of several narrow outcomes to choose from, now you will all be working towards achieving the same few broad outcomes.
- Instead of figuring out how to evaluate your grant project yourself, now you will have three options to choose from: interviews, observations, and/or surveys.
- Copies of original signatures are now acceptable so you may submit your application via email, fax, or regular mail.
- Application guidelines, definitions of terms used in the grant materials, and descriptions of the three evaluation options are enclosed in this mailing to help you fill-out this application.

There has been a lot of discussion and information about the proposed changes to the grant program. Therefore, I want to include a few reminders about the Ready to Read grant program as it has been and will continue to be.

Reminders about the Ready to Read grant requirements:
- The Ready to Read grant *must* be used to fund early literacy services for young children 0-6 years old and/or the statewide summer reading program for youth 0-14 years old.
- Early literacy projects *may* include activities for pregnant/parenting teens and adults who are parents, primary caregivers, teachers, and childcare providers responsible for educating and/or caring for young children.

- Summer reading projects *must* use the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). There are no exceptions, but there is a little wiggle-room. It's complicated so call me for details if your library has a good reason for needing wiggle-room next summer.
- Summer reading projects *cannot* be designed specifically for teens age 15 or older. However, libraries *may* allow teens age 15 and older to participate in their grant-funded summer reading projects designed for youth 0-14 years old.
- Summer reading projects *may* include activities that encourage parents/primary caregivers to participate with their children
- Libraries have one calendar year to spend grant funds (January 1-December 31, 2015). All grant funds must be spent by December 31, 2015.
- Grant applications will be denied if they are not date-stamped August 31, 2015, or earlier—there are no exceptions. While there is an appeals process for this situation, there is no guarantee you'll receive your grant funds if you miss the application deadline.

Please mark these dates for the 2016 Ready to Read grant on your calendar:
- **August 31, 2015** (or earlier): Application are due/must be date-stamped
- **October 9, 2015**: Notification that your application has been accepted or rejected
- **December 4, 2015**: State Library Board meeting to hear appeals and approve grants
- **December 31, 2015**: Grant funds are distributed
- **January 1, 2016**: Start spending grant funds
- **October 7, 2016**: Report forms are available
- **December 1, 2016**: Reports are due/must be date-stamped
- **December 31, 2016**: All grant funds must be spent

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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Four documents are enclosed:
1. Application guidelines
2. Definitions and description of evaluation options
3. List of proposed grants
4. 2016 Ready to Read grant application