



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Literacy Grant Program - Guidelines

Effective February 2018

SMIF's Literacy Grant Program is designed to support early literacy efforts that enhance school readiness for children birth to age 5 by providing children with books. Organizations working with these children are encouraged to apply for books to be given to families to keep and read to their children. The Literacy Grant Program receives books through partnerships with ABDO Publishing Company and Capstone Publishing.

Grant Guidelines

- Applications must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government or a public agency.
- Proposal must benefit SMIF's 20-county region.
- Only one application per organization will be considered.
- Books must be distributed within one year of the grant award date.

Exclusions

Ineligible activities include:

- Books used as library and/or school books.
- Books for resale.
- Books not given directly to children to take home to keep, to read and be read to.
- Books as a pass-through from one organization to another
- Projects that do not include a significant parent education component focused on literacy.

Priority Considerations

Priority in funding will be given to projects that:

- Strengthen parental awareness of early literacy needs including communication and language development.
- Target populations that may not be receiving books through any other avenues in the community.





- Collaborate with other organizations to provide literacy tools to enhance and increase school readiness skills.
- Are new and creative.

Application Process

- SMIF awards grants on a competitive basis.
- A final report is due following the grant period. Failure to submit a completed final report may jeopardize future grant awards from SMIF.
- SMIF will provide a public announcement highlighting awards on behalf of the grant recipient.
- Grant recipients are required to attend a book pick up on June 21, 2018 in Owatonna.

Required Documents

- Completed application
- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (if nonprofit organization)

For grant award consideration, submit a completed application by April 12, 2018 via email to jenniferh@smifoundation.org or postal mail to:

Grants Coordinator
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
PO Box 695
Owatonna, MN 55060

All applicants will be contacted via email or telephone to confirm receipt of their application. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by May 10, 2018.

Questions

- For questions about what SMIF might fund contact Teri Steckelberg, Early Childhood Director, at 507.214.7015 or email at teris@smifoundation.org
- For questions about the application process or required documentation contact Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at 507.214.7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org

SMIF is a member of the Minnesota Council of Foundations and adheres to the Council of Foundation's Statement of Principles and Practices. SMIF's annual report is available on-line at www.smifoundation.org.

