



Early Literacy in Grants to States

Initial Peek at Instructional Early Literacy Projects, FY 2017

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Impact Assessment and Learning

Presentation's Overview

- Statistical profile of early literacy projects
- Methodology for analyzing projects' narrative data field
- Findings
- Emerging Impressions



FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects

Key Portfolio Metrics

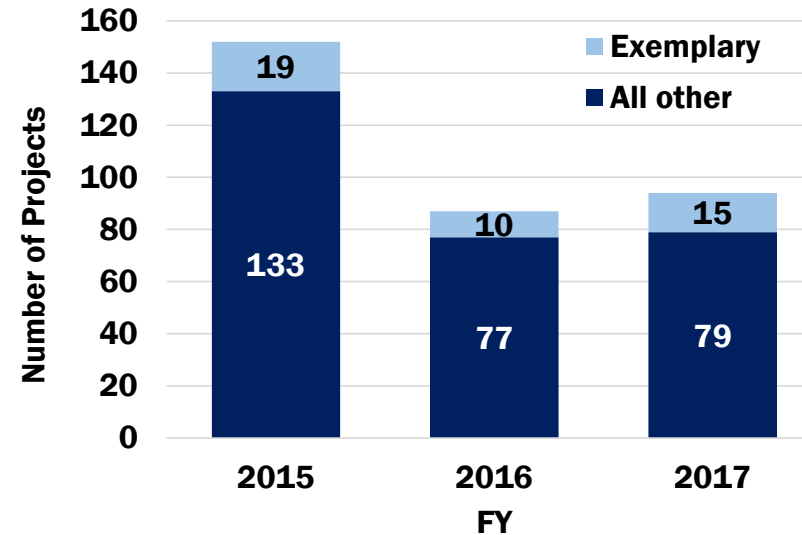
An Initial Snapshot

Early Literacy

- **28** States
- **94** Projects
- **235** Activities
- **\$7.9** Total Budget

- *Missouri, 34 projects.
Minnesota, 10 projects.
North Carolina, 7 projects.*
- *LSTA funds comprise about
2/3 of total budget*

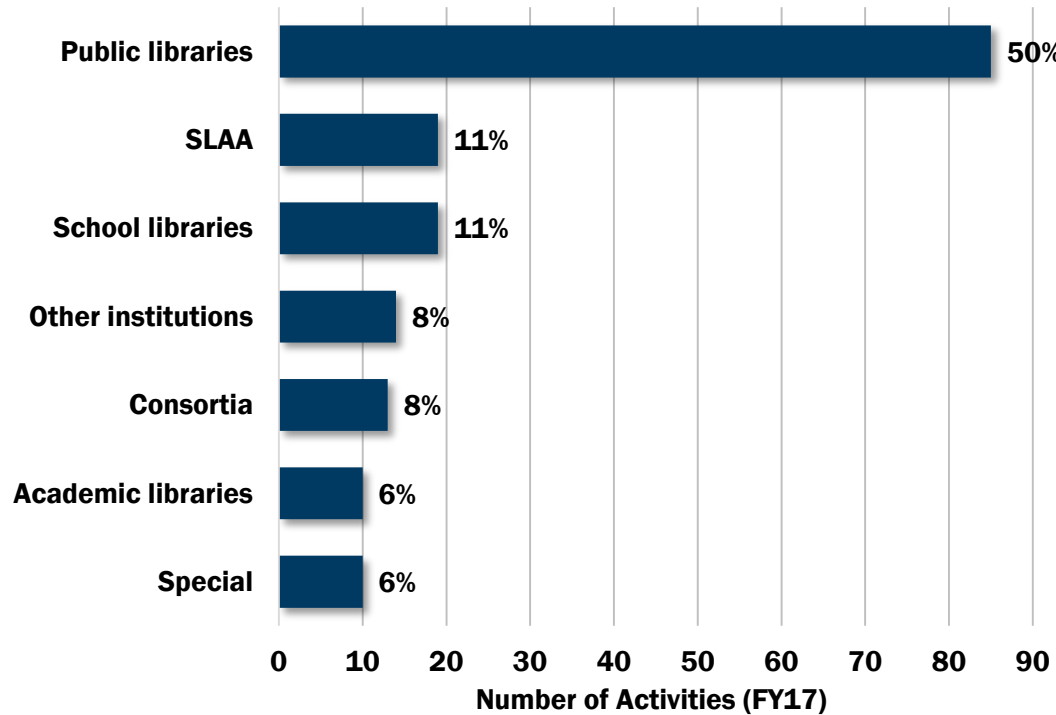
Exemplary Early Literacy Projects



- *2015-2017: 10% of early literacy projects vs 7% for all other projects.*
- *2017: 16% of early literacy projects vs 8% of all other projects.*

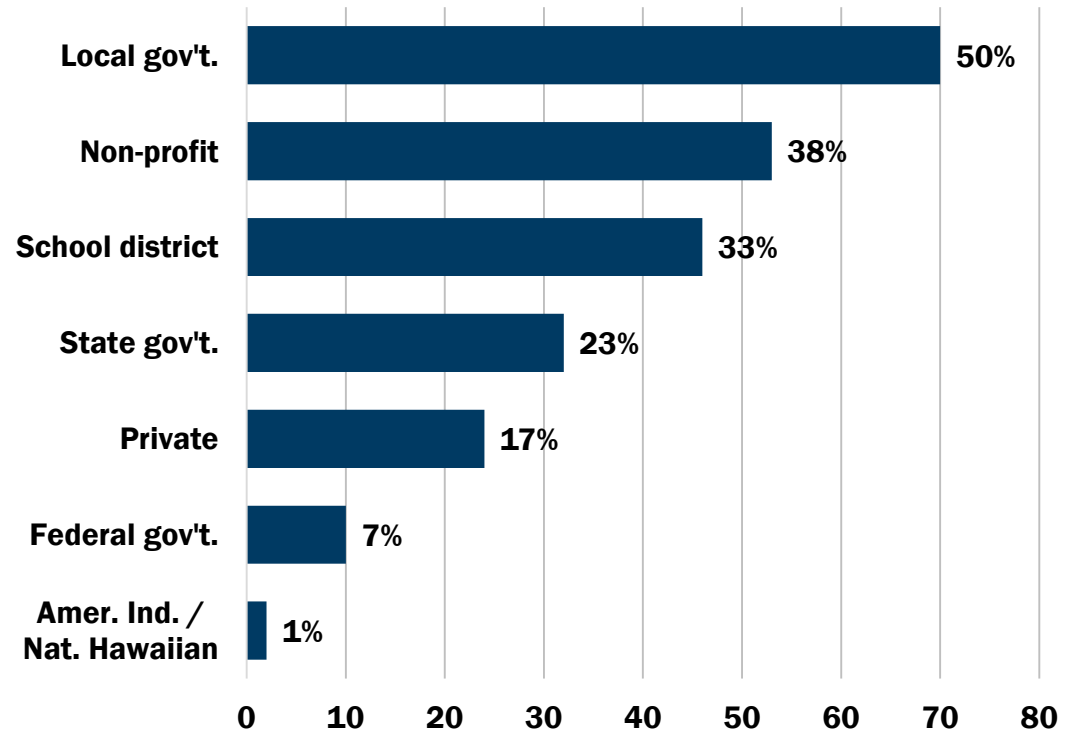
FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects: Implementers and Partners

Implementing Sites



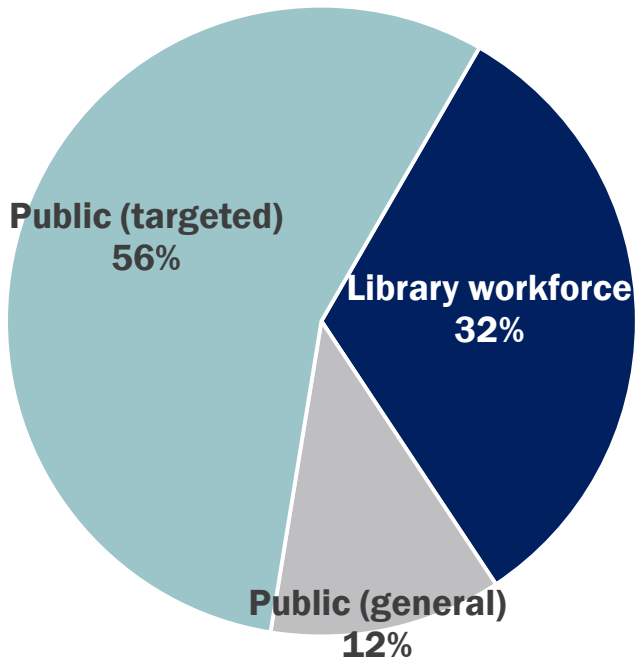
All Projects: public libraries (43%) and SLAAs (23%)

Partners

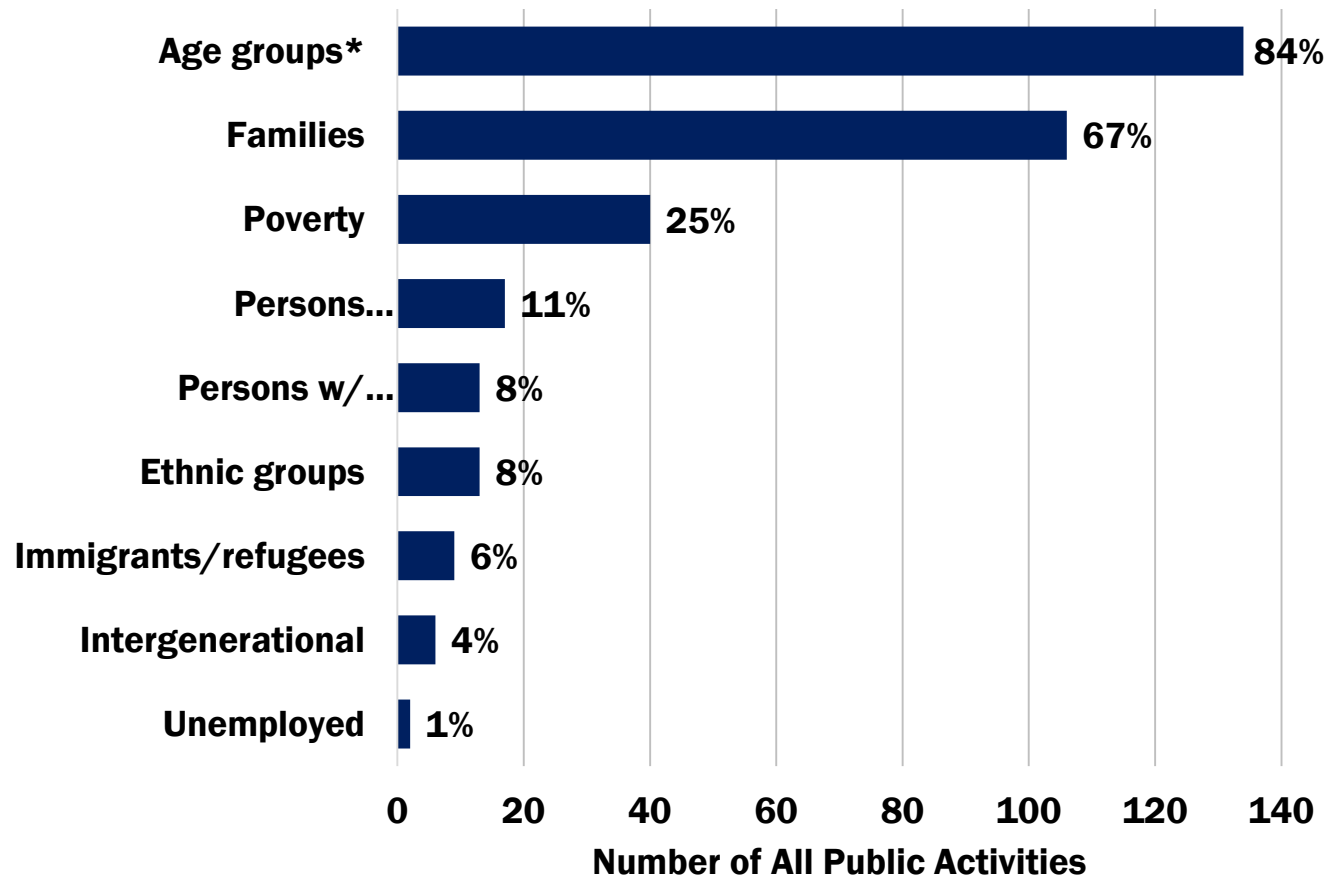


All projects: public libraries (50%), school districts (25%) and State gov't (41%)

FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects Beneficiaries

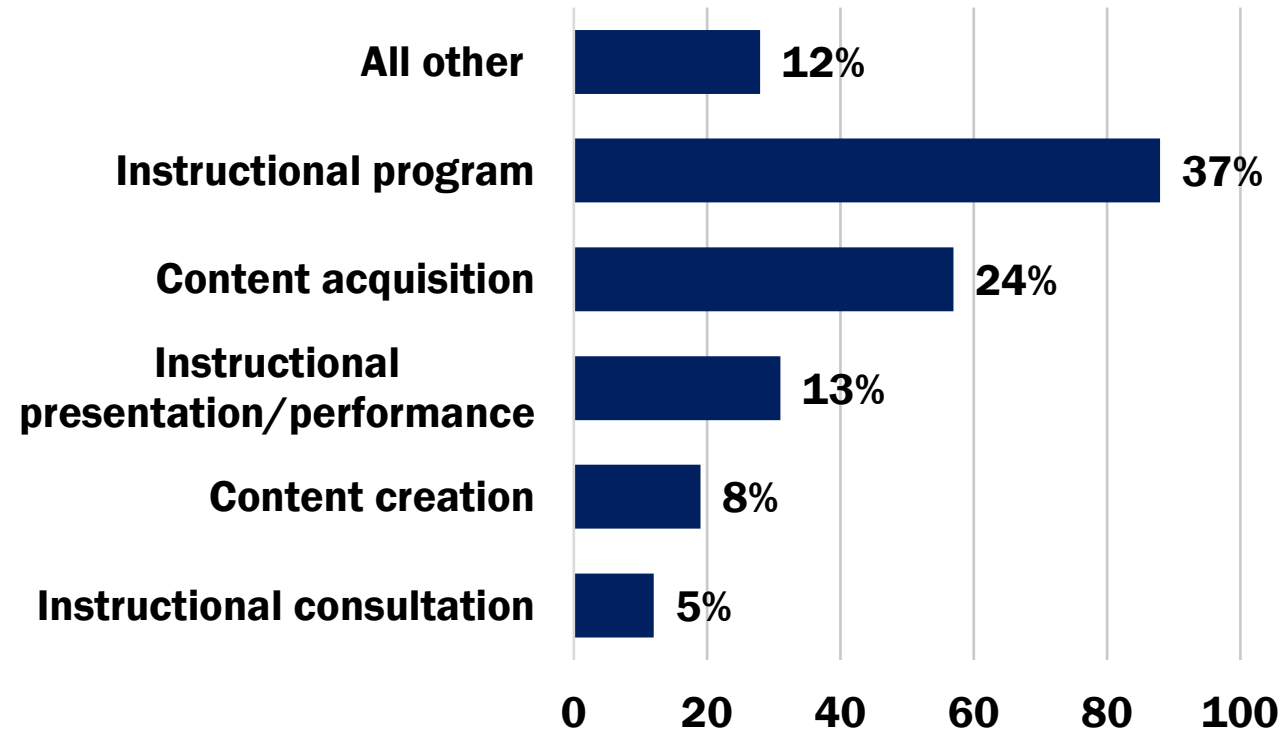


*All projects:
31% public (general),
40% public (targeted).
29% library workforce*



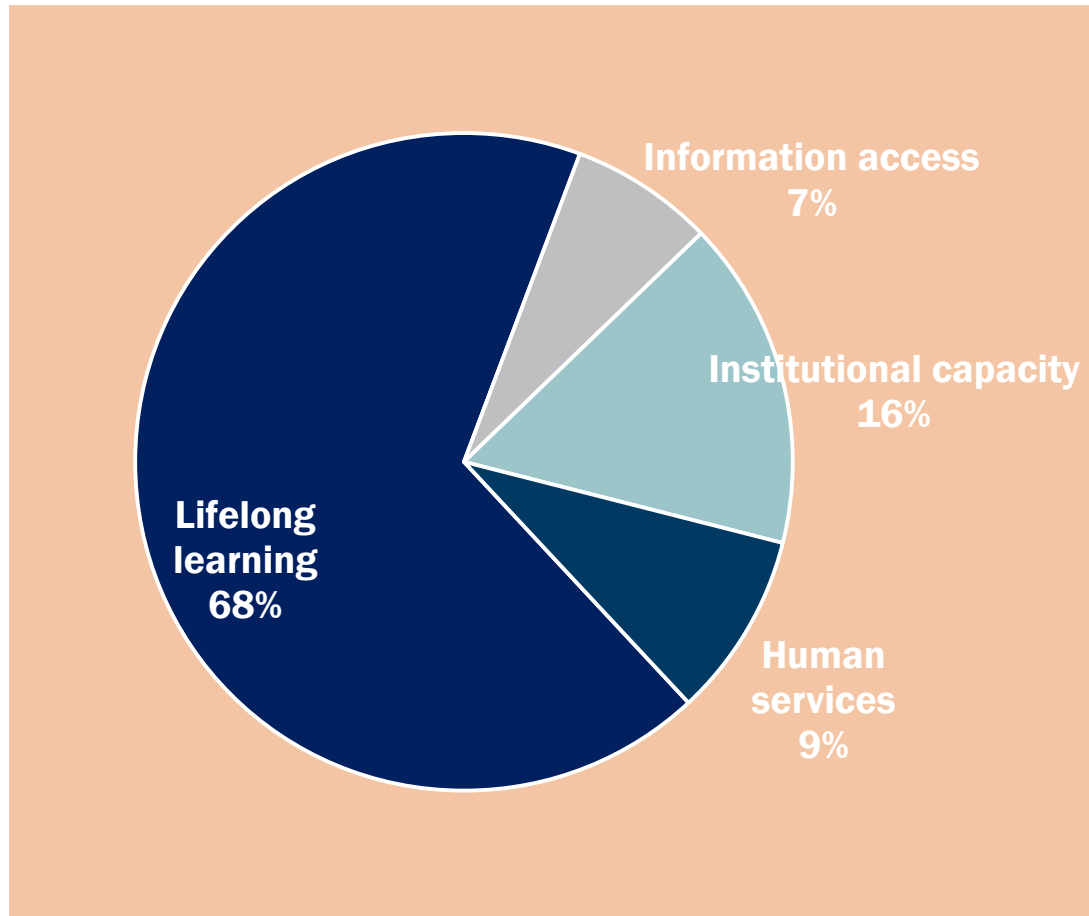
*All projects:
32% age groups, 16% families, 11% poverty*

FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects Activity Modes



- *55% involved instruction: programs, presentations/performances, consultations*
- *32% involved content acquisition and creation*
- *Many blended instructional and content activities.*

FY 2017 Early Learning Projects Focal Areas



Focal Area	Early Literacy	Entire Portfolio
Lifelong Learning	68%	30%
Human Services	10%	3%
Information Access	7%	32%
Institutional Capacity	16%	27%

FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects

Methodology for Analysis of Narrative Data

SPR Project Report Text Fields


General Information

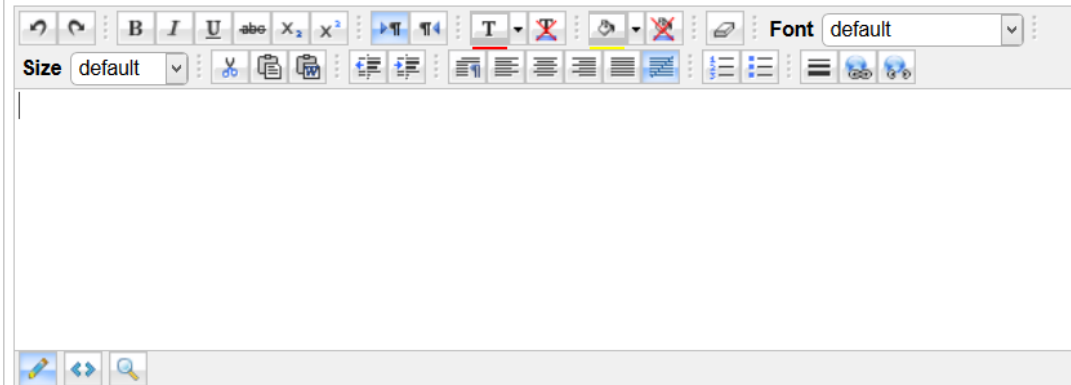
Title: *

State Project Code: 

Start Date: *

End Date: *

Abstract: 



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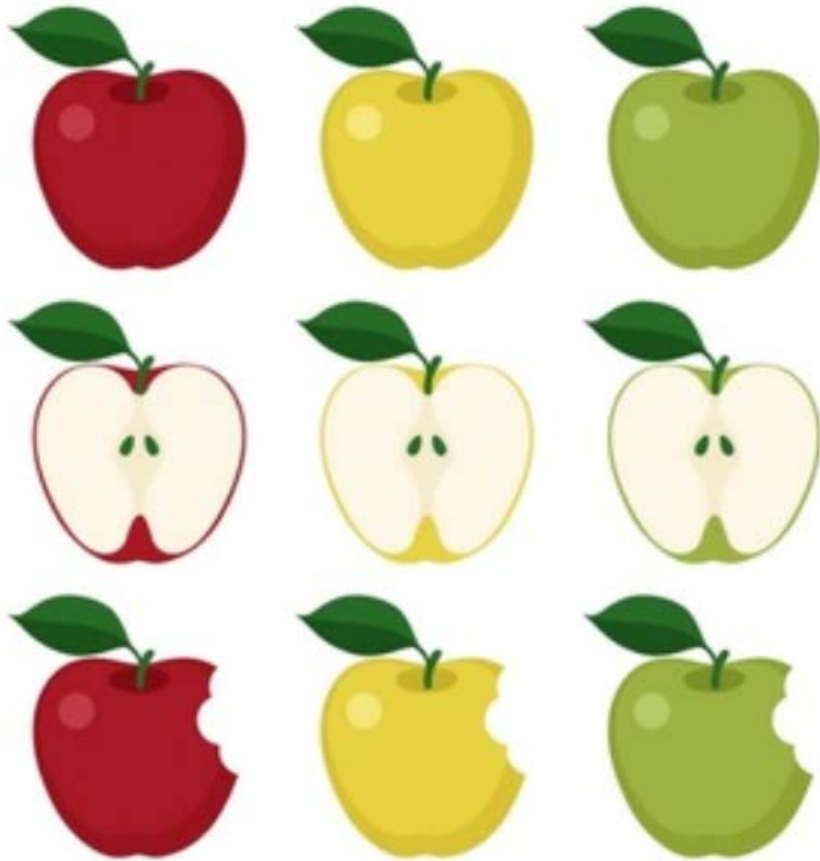
Project Outcomes

List any important outcomes or findings not previously reported.

Please briefly describe the importance of these outcomes and findings for future program planning.

Explain one or two of the most significant lessons learned for others wanting to adopt any facets of this project.

Binning 72 Early Literacy **Instructional** Projects



Early Literacy Focal Areas' Intents

1. Lifelong learning (48 projects)
 - a. Formal Education (30)
 - b. General Knowledge & Skills (18)
2. Institutional Capacity
 - a. Library workforce (10)
3. Human Services
 - a. Parenting & family skills (6)
4. Information Access
 - a. Use & obtain information (5)

Criteria for Assessing the Narrative Data

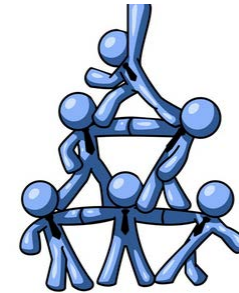
- **Innovativeness**

- How innovative were the project's practices?
- How savvy were the project's partnerships?



- **Scalability**

- How have project's practices been applied and perhaps enhanced?
- How has project influenced future direction of program/organization?



- **Promising Practices**

- What lessons learned ought others know about?



Analytical Protocols

1. Analyze each project report's statistical and narrative data
2. Document projects' key results (outputs and outcomes) from narrative codes
3. Assess each project on the three criteria
 - a. Innovativeness
 - b. Scalability
 - c. Promising Practices
4. Illustrate with “exemplary” projects

Library Workforce (10 Projects)

SLAA	Project #	Project Title
AZ	2017-AZ-79909	Implementing Fun with Math and Science
CA	2017-CA-79174	Early Learning with Families (ELF): Year 5
IA	2017-IA-80194	Early Literacy
ID	2017-ID-79459	Read to Me Professional Development
ID	2017-ID-79462	School Library Development
IN	2017-IN-80397	Indiana Children's Literacy Statewide Project
MI	2017-MI-80063	Early Literacy Support for Libraries and Communities
NE	2017-NE-79935	Children and Young Adult Library Services
NY	2017-NY-79335	Ready to Read at New York Libraries
OH	2017-OH-79478	Youth Services Initiative

	Average Project Budget	% LSTA Funds
Library Workforce	\$174,594	77%
All Early Literacy	\$84, 224	66%

Types of Library Workforce Early Literacy Project Results

Of the 10 Projects:

- Staff trainings (8 projects)
- Other continuing education/professional development support efforts (4 projects)
- PR/dissemination, e.g., listserv, directories (6 projects)



Examples of Innovativeness

- California “Early Learning with Families (ELF): Year 5”
 - STARLING pilot project (electronic devices)
 - “Developing Library Makerspaces” pilot project (planning, toolkit)
 - Impact Reports
- Michigan “Early Literacy Support for Libraries and Communities “
 - Braille Enhanced StoryWalks(R)
 - Collaboration with MI Department of Education
 - Picture books used as signs through a garden or another area, so families can read the story...



Examples of Adaptability

- Montana “Lifelong Learning “
 - Group training format seems to have helped participants more comfortably apply the learnings in their home library.
 - Almost all participants reported in program surveys of informally using the Program’s concepts, either in their ongoing public programs or in their individual work.

Mike Jetty - Indian Education for All, OPI (Helena, MT)



Mike Jetty is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation and a Turtle Mountain Chippewa descendant. Mike is currently working at the Montana Office of Public Instruction as an Indian Education Specialist. He has been working with Indian Education issues for the past 28 years and has teaching experience at both the K-12 and University level. He has a B.S. in History Education, a Master's in School Administration and an Education Specialist Degree. Since 2004 he has provided over 200 Indian Education workshops for over 4000 educators.

Examples of Learning

- New York “Ready to Read at New York Libraries”
 - Cohort-base training initiative focused on early literacy content and capacity building skills.
 - After receipt of training, many training cohort members have continued mentoring and assisting staff, especially with outreach and partnering.



Parenting and Family Skills (6 Projects)

SLAA	Project #	Project Title
AK	2017-AK-79639	Ready to Read Resource Center 2018
CA	2017-CA-79186	The Reading Machine: Spark Your Imagination
CO	2017-CO-80076	Growing Readers Together
MT	2017-MT-78427	Lifelong Learning
NC	2017-NC-79250	Reading to Make a Difference

	Average Project Budget	% LSTA Funds
Parenting & Family Skills	\$110,236	33%
All Early Literacy	\$84, 224	66%

Types of Parenting/Family Skills' Early Literacy Project Results

Of the 6 Projects:

- Presentations (4 projects) and programs (3 projects)
- Books (3 projects); Kits and tubs (3 projects)
- Accessories (e.g., calendars) (3 projects)



Example of Innovativeness

- North Carolina (Lincoln County) “READING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE “
 - Newborn Literacy kits provide each child born in Lincoln County Hospital
 - Prenatal story time workshops that taught expecting parents how to read to their newborn
 - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program
 - Partnered with various community agencies to reach families living in poverty and children enrolled in daycare centers.
 - Outreach to OBGYN and Pediatric Offices
 - Volunteer sit book bags



Example of Adaptability

- Alaska “Ready to Read Resource Center 2018”
 - Planned withdrawing of tubs from circulation by 2020
 - Verified prevalence of kits through ILL using Anchorage Library; expansion using Fairbanks Library.



Promising Practices

- North Carolina (Lincoln County)
“READING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”
 - Multiple outreach points to reach target audience (impoverished, young/pregnant mothers in this case):
 - Various community agencies
 - Public hospital
 - OBGYN and Pediatric Offices
 - Partnering/collaborating tips
 - Stay in constant contact with all partners with regular updates.
 - Create reasonable timelines



Formal Education Projects (30 Projects)

Formal Ed Average Project Budget: \$38,083 (73% LSTA)
All Literacy Average Project Budget: \$84,224 (66% LSTA)

SLAA	Project ID	Project Title
ID	2017-ID-79461	Read to Me Outreach
MN	2017-MN-79973	Full STEAM Ahead: Pre-kindergarten STEAM Activities in the Library Media Center
MO	2017-MO-78922	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78924	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78929	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78930	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78931	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78932	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78933	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78934	ELCD: Early Learning Collection Development 2018
MO	2017-MO-78941	RTR: We are Racing to Read!
MO	2017-MO-78942	RTR: Racing to Read @ Carthage Public Library
MO	2017-MO-78943	RTR: Racing to Read: Community Collaboration
MO	2017-MO-78944	RTR: Racing to Read, 2017

SLAA	Project ID	Project Title
MO	2017-MO-78945	RTR: Racing to Read Winter 2017
MO	2017-MO-78946	RTR: Rhythm and Tunes
MO	2017-MO-78947	RTR: Racing to Read - Born to Read
MO	2017-MO-78948	RTR: Pre-Literacy Corners Supported by Pre-literacy Programs
MO	2017-MO-78949	RTR: Teens, Tots, and Tales: Building Family Literacy and Libraries
MO	2017-MO-78950	RTR: Racing to Read 2017
MO	2017-MO-78951	RTR: Destination Library - Racing to Read
MO	2017-MO-78952	RTR: Racing to Read 2017
MO	2017-MO-78953	RTR: Families Racing to Read
MO	2017-MO-78960	SLT: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
MO	2017-MO-79039	TMG: STEAM for Preschool and Early Elementary
NC	2017-NC-79234	ALPHABET READY, Year 1
NC	2017-NC-79241	CUMBERLAND COUNTY HURRICANE MATTHEW RELIEF
NC	2017-NC-79268	READ WAYNE
WI	2017-WI-80308	Youth and Inclusive Services Consultant Projects

Types of Formal Education Early Literacy Project Results

Of the 30 projects:

- Programs (14 projects) and presentations (7 projects)
- Staff training & professional development (7 projects)
- Outreach and partnership development (7 projects)
- Storytimes (10 projects)
- Books (7 projects) and other physical content (19 projects)
- Physical accessories (7 projects) and supplies (3 projects)
- Digital content (7 projects) and tablets/computing devices (5 projects)

Examples of Innovativeness

- **Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center, NC (“Cumberland County Hurricane Matthew Relief”)**
 - Purchased book bags to revitalize its deposit collection services damaged during Hurricane Matthew.
- **Carthage Public Library, MO (“Racing to Read @ Carthage Public Library”)**
 - Targeted high risk and English language learners
 - Partnered with school district, local Head Start, local day care centers, and a local foundation
 - Provided English and bilingual story times at the library and at partner locations.
- **Saint Louis County Library, MO (“RTR: Rhythm and Rhymes”)**
 - Staff-created 24 early literacy skill videos
 - Product intended to enable parents, children and caregivers to have access to building early literacy skills and techniques.



Examples of Scalability

- **Idaho’s “Read to Me Outreach”**
 - conveyed need to create broader focus for reaching parents as the Internet decreases effectiveness of programs that preceded it
 - Example of long-standing programs organized around school registration.
- **Wisconsin’s “Youth and Inclusive Services Consultant Projects”**
 - reported a breakthrough in defining shared language and purpose around the terms "special needs" and "special services"
 - Target audiences are library staff and public library users



Promising Practices

- **Cape Girardeau Public Library, MO (“RTR: Destination Library - Racing to Read”)**
 - Reported connections made with partners helped promote library programs and services to underserved and unserved populations.
 - Training and communication are essential for the partnership to work well.
- **Appalachian Regional Library, NC “Alphabet Ready, Year 1”**
 - Built on careful research, developed library story times that intentionally included phonemic awareness and alphabet recognition in library story times
 - Purposefully created a bridge between schools and the public library.
 - Discovered three resources for purchasing books at a discount:
 - Usborne Books has a grant matching program which provides a 50% discount on books purchased with grant money;
 - Children's Council provides discounted books to organizations that are not planning to resell the books;
 - Scholastic's Literacy Partnerships provides books at a discount when they are not going to be resold.



General Knowledge and Skills Projects (18 Projects)

Gen Knowledge/Skills Average Project Budget: \$101,279 (60% LSTA)

All Literacy Average Project Budget: \$84,224 (66% LSTA)

SLAA	Project Id	Project Title
AL	2017-AL-80311	Literacy
CA	2017-CA-79209	Read Together Kits: Bringing Diverse Literature Home
CA	2017-CA-79211	Wee Play San Jose: Wee Read!
CO	2017-CO-80055	Early Literacy
MA	2017-MA-79582	Mind in the Making
MN	2017-MN-79840	Improving Library Services to Children and Youth
MN	2017-MN-79956	Read to Me: Babies Need Words Every Day
MN	2017-MN-79957	Preschool STEM Storytime

SLAA	Project ID	Project Title
MN	2017-MN-79969	STEM Sprouts: Birth to 5 Hands-on Learning at the Library
MN	2017-MN-79970	Improving School Readiness in Toddlers and Preschoolers by Connecting Early STEM/STEAM with Nature
MN	2017-MN-79971	First Step STEM: Structured & Unstructured STEM Exploration for At-risk Early Learners
MN	2017-MN-79972	Growing Them Early: Early Childhood STEM Kits for Library and Childcare Programming
NC	2017-NC-79273	YOUTH SERVICES SWLP
PA	2017-PA-79722	One Book, Every Young Child
SD	2017-SD-80226	Children and Youth Services
TX	2017-TX-79382	Baby Literacy
TX	2017-TX-79383	Show Me a Story/ Enseñame un cuento
WI	2017-WI-80218	Library System Technology

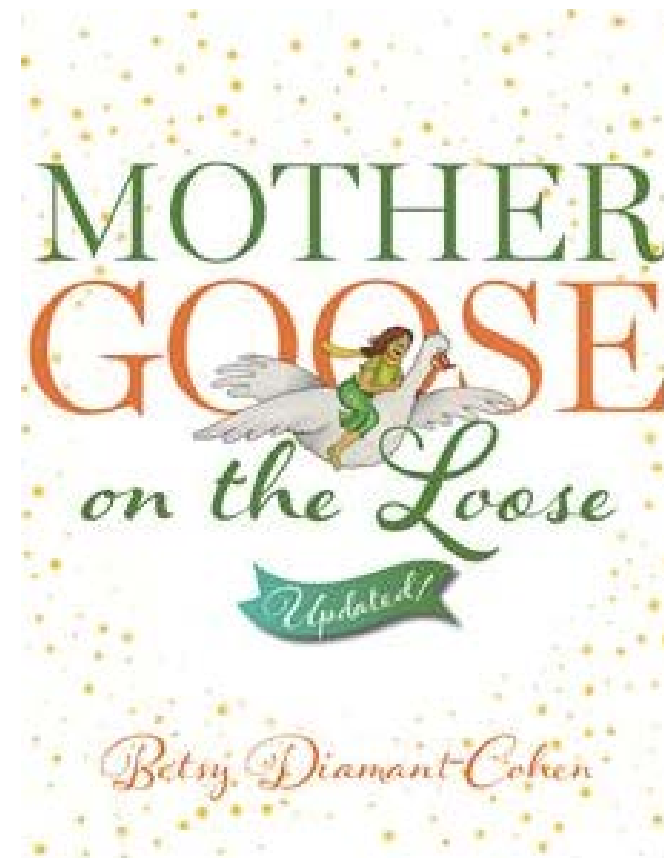
Types of General Knowledge & Skills' Projects' Early Literacy Results

Of the 18 projects:

- Programs (11 projects), presentations (5 projects), and trainings (5 projects)
- Outreach and partnering (6 projects)
- Storytimes (6 projects),
- Books (3 projects) and other physical content (7 projects)
- Digital content (3 projects)
- Evaluation and planning (3 projects)

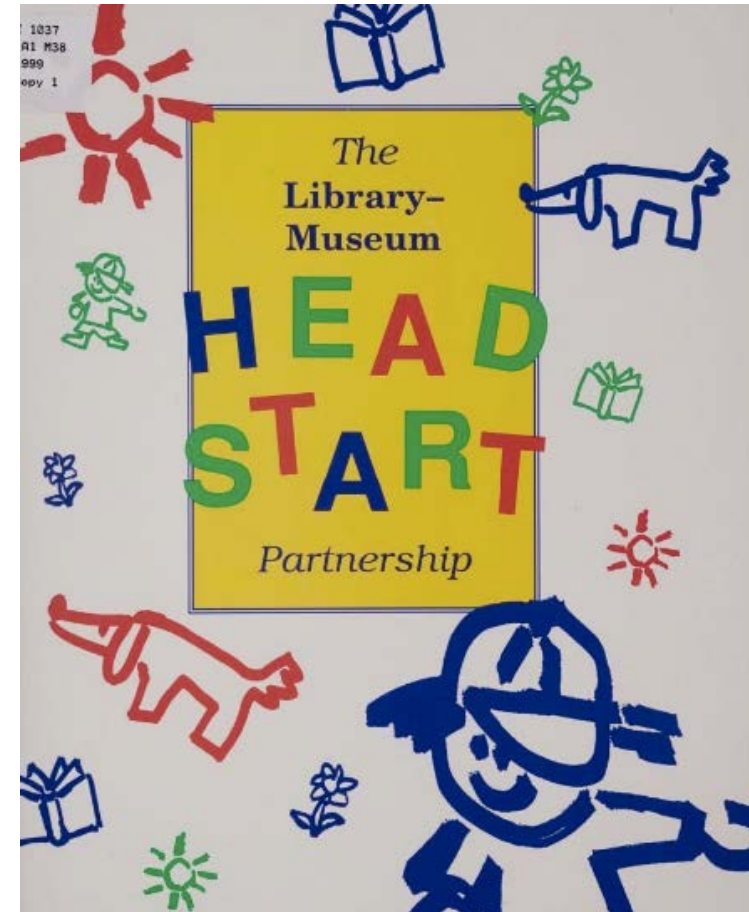
Examples of Innovativeness

- **Brownward TX Public Library’s “Baby Literacy” project**
 - Started outreach and programming to infants, as well as expand programs for toddlers and preschoolers by reaching out to parents of new babies with the local hospital.
 - Launched a baby storytime program, hosted a workshop creator of Mother Goose on the Loose, and shared with other libraries and early childhood providers.
- **North Carolina’s State Library’s Youth Services**
 - Inaugural Summer Learning Summit
 - Organized and implemented a series of Latino Outreach & Bilingual Storytime workshops



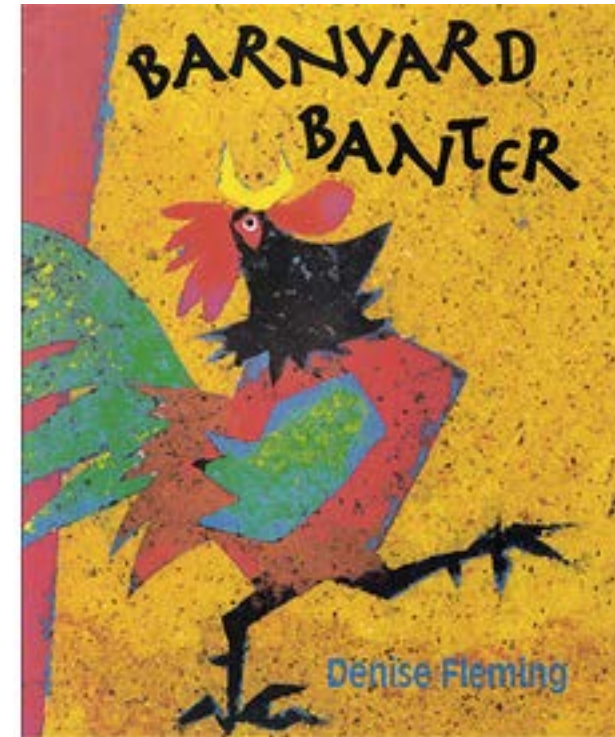
Examples of Scalability

- **Minnesota’s “Growing Them Early: Early Childhood STEM Kits for Library and Childcare Programming”**
 - Offered intentional early STEM learning opportunities for the first time in 10 of 11 public libraries in rural west central Minnesota for the first time.
 - Four now hold regularly scheduled STEM-based storytime programs or early STEM “labs” and the remaining libraries continuing to offer early STEM programming intermittently.
 - Partnership with Head Start and a regional childcare center
- **Sacramento (CA) Public Library’s “Read Together Kits: Bringing Diverse Literature Home”**
 - Designed kits purposefully designed for diverse audiences.
 - Discovering difficulty in finding books that were both excellent for storytimes and included diverse characters
 - Staff extended timeline , resulting in the enhanced book evaluation skills, better understanding of how to support colleagues and recognition of own cultural assumptions.



Promising Practices

- **Colorado' State Library's "Early Literacy"** initiative highlighted the seventh year of "Book 4 Colorado,"
 - Partnership with the Colorado Lt. Governor's Office, Serve Colorado, Denver Preschool Program as well as with private funding for the book purchases.
 - Around 80% librarians agreed that the program provided an opportunity to reach out to other agencies interested in childhood education.
- **Pennsylvania's "One Book, Every Young Child"**
 - Author and illustrator Zachariah O'Hora traveled across state and share his book with groups of young children where public libraries and early childcare providers provided programs for groups of children.
 - SLAA created supporting resources such as a website, activity guides, and downloadable posters were also created



Obtain &/Or Use Information Projects (5 Projects)

SLAA	Project Id	Project Title
IN	2017-IN-80241	Closing the 30 Million Word Gap: Using Technology to Educate Parents on Engaging With Their Children
MN	2017-MN-79683	Wash and Learn Initiative
OR	2017-OR-79993	Bridging Cultures - Growing Early Scientists
VI	2017-VI-80162	Enhance awareness of DLAM Library Programs, Services & Community Participation
MD	2017-MD-79088	Youth Services in Maryland Libraries

	Average Project Budget	% LSTA Funds
Obtain and/or Use Information	\$48,807	92%
All Early Literacy	\$84, 224	66%

Types of Results for Information Access Projects

Of the 5 Projects:

- Outreach and partnership efforts (4 projects)
- Programs (3 projects)
- Staff development (2 projects)
- Tablet/computing devices (2 projects) and digital content (2 projects)

Example of Innovativeness

- **Minnesota’s “Wash and Learn Initiative”**
 - Partnership between the SLAA and Libraries without Borders in extending customized library services into coin laundry small businesses.
 - Building on best practices and lessons learned from similar programs in Michigan and New York, Wash and Learn was implemented by the Anoka County, Scott County and Saint Paul Public library systems.
 - The project team created and tested new digital tools and outreach models for early literacy, digital literacy and health literacy.
 - A model of “hyper-local public-private partnerships” was developed.
 - At each partner coin laundry, the project team built out library spaces for families and others to use. Each site reached an average of 20 participants per day, accruing over 25,000 unique uses over a six month implementation period.



Example of Scalability

- **Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library (IN)**
“Closing the 30 Million Word Gap: Using Technology to Educate Parents on Engaging With Their Children”
 - The Library had hoped the Starlings would be most effective when paired with a programming element, but found it wasn't the case because some parents had a hard time being present for a specific number of scheduled sessions.
 - Mishawaka-Penn-Harris will be circulating the Starlings in the future so that parents can experiment with the devices when the timing works best for them.



Promising Practices

- **Washington County Cooperative Library Services (OR), “Bridging Cultures - Growing Early Scientists”**
 - Library and partners developed STEM/early literacy kits specifically for children in immigrant and refugee families facing a multiplicity of challenges related to income and language, and who are therefore more vulnerable and at a greater risk for not achieving educational success.
 - Since this project sparked a lot of interest among both libraries and patrons, there is now a large pool of applicants for the Multilingual Storytimes positions in Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and two Somali storytime presenters have already been trained by library staff.
 - “Partnerships are the key element to create a project like this and to establish relationships with underserved communities that also include families with limited English proficiency.”



FY 2017 Early Literacy Projects

Emerging Impressions

Emerging Issues for Further Exploration

1. Narrative Outcome data:
 - a. Bring projects to life in describing nuances of their intentions and implementation.
 - b. Do not not generally offer strong evidence about the “outcomes” per se.
2. Variation of projects based on activity:
 - a. Projects with instruction differ from those with content
 - b. Need to explore further differences related to activities and intents/focal areas
3. Variations in storytime undertakings.
4. Comparing national early literacy campaigns, state initiatives, and local efforts.
5. Discerning staff training from other professional development endeavors
6. Classifying events, conferences, workshops as programs, presentations, and/or other
7. Discerning curricula from other content and planning activities
8. Probing further into partnerships and outreach undertakings

Questions?



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