

President's Imagination Mini Grant Guideline Examples

Project Abstract *Example*

The purpose of the **Literacy Alive** project is to improve the time spent and quality of effort parents and other caregivers of children 2, 3 and 4 years of age direct towards reading with their children resulting in a higher interest in reading and education in those children. Applicants will apply for the **Literacy Alive** program and be selected based on having at least one self-declared barrier (low income as demonstrated by a family income of 200% of the poverty guidelines or below, eligible for food stamps or other income assistance, receipt of housing assistance and/or the parent or child having a self-declared reading disability or other documented barrier). Eligible participants for full participation will be selected based on the above barriers demonstrating those most in need of services and already participating in 1 of 3 established programs – RSCC Adult Education/GED Program (AE), Head Start Program (HS) parent or Lutheran Preschool (LP) parent. Selected materials/components will be open to all parents in the community. If not already registered, parents will be asked to register their children for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (IL) program so that children will receive a monthly IL book. Project goals and measurable objectives are focused on providing parents the tools, techniques and opportunities to help excite their children about reading and to bring Literacy Alive.

Need *Example*

The project will be located in Morgan County, TN, which is a rural county characterized by many barriers illustrated by the following U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic stats:

- High School Graduates (% age 25+): 63.8% compared to TN 75.9%, USA 80.4%
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher (% age 25+): 6.0% compared to TN 19.6%, USA 24.4%
- Median Household Income 2004: \$30,387 compared to TN \$38,945 , USA \$44,334
- Persons Below Poverty Level 2004: 18.7% compared to TN 15.0%. USA 12.7%
- Unemployment Rate for June 2007/May 2008/June 2008*
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* Source: Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The need for the project is to improve parenting/caregiver skills and enhance interest in books and literacy of 2, 3 and 4 year old children from families with barriers (single parents, low income, low literacy levels, etc.). These barriers are more prevalent in Morgan County due to the low education and income levels and high unemployment.

Proposal *Example*:
Dollar General Oliver Springs' GED Class

The purpose of the project is to continue and to enhance the adult basic education and GED class in Oliver Springs. This class serves undereducated, low-income adults that are unable to travel to the nearest available class. These adults are being recruited from Oliver Springs and the surrounding area. Enhancement features will include a more focused literacy component and a new career and post-secondary education exploration component.

Last year's Dollar General grant funded much of this program with a match from Roane State and the partners. Roane State is continuing to fund the class from April 2010 until June 2010, but severe cutbacks will have to be made without continued Dollar General or other funding effective July 2010.

The class, located in a facility in the Oliver Springs Housing Authority, can serve 12 students at a time. It's anticipated that during the timeline of the project (June 2010 – March 2011) the class will serve 35 students.

The goal of the class is to improve the educational levels of the students and, consequently, the wage earning and self-sufficiency of the students. To do so, educational levels will be increased and students will obtain their GED diplomas as detailed in the Project/Program Objective section of this grant request.

Based on experiences learned from the first year of this program, the program is being altered to provide a more focused literacy component. The other experience learned from the first year is that more focus is needed to encourage GED graduates in the Oliver Springs class, as well as all Roane County GED classes, to explore career opportunities and continue their education beyond the high school level. The literacy component enhancement will be accomplished through a reprioritization of the instructor's time while the career/postsecondary education exploration opportunity will be accomplished by adding new components to the grant request.

The Adult Basic Education and GED class will be continued and enhanced with a more focused literacy component by July 15, 2010. It will include three career/postsecondary education exploration field trips : 1) Roane State – Roane County campus, 2) Roane State – Oak Ridge Campus , and 3) Tennessee Technology Center – Harriman.

Adult education students who enter class with a score of 9.0 grade level or above have potential to attain a GED in a timely manner. Traditionally, approximately 15 percent of adult education students enter at that level. Students who enter at grade levels 6.0 – 8.9 in math or language arts only, but score higher in reading, may be eligible to take the Official GED Practice Test. Thus, minimal targeted instruction is needed to prepare them for the GED test. This group will represent an additional 10 percent in GED attainments. Therefore, the objective will be to have at least 25 percent (9/35) of the total population earn their GED.

Timeline *Example*

May 2010: Receipt of Grant

July 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011: Continuation of class at 8 hours per week with an average of 5 students in attendance. Total attendance over the grant period will equal at least 35 different students. Of the 35 students, at least 15 will average at least one skill level gain per documented student need and 9 will achieve their GED.

July 15, 2010 – March 31, 2011: Implementation and continuation of the expanded literacy component during the first hour of each class.

August – September 2010: Planning of the 3 career/postsecondary exploration field trips.

October 2010 – February 2011: Conducting of the 3 career/postsecondary exploration field trips.

October 2010: Mid-Year Status report due to Dollar General

April 2011: Close-out report due to Dollar General

Ongoing: Maintenance of records and reporting on class attendance, GED attainments, skill level attainment, and more.

Ongoing: Roane State and the Foundation will continue to seek out grant opportunities to expand the size of the class in Oliver Springs with additional instructional support and to obtain funding for the class beyond March 2011.

Assessment *Example*

Goal 1: To increase the number of demographically diverse Harriman High School students pursuing and acquiring post-secondary education. Of the PLAN scholars enrolled in this program:

95% will complete a detailed academic college readiness plan with action steps for the year(s) prior to postsecondary matriculation.

95% will complete a career assessment.

75% will attend PLAN events at Roane State and/or a Tennessee Technology Center designed to increase post-secondary training and career awareness.

Measurement of Goal 1: The Project Director will maintain documentation on each Harriman High School PLAN scholar to track completion of academic readiness plans and progress, career assessments, and event attendance. A project outcome database for PLAN scholars /participants will be tracked annually to measure achievement of project goals/objectives.

Goal 2: Harriman High School PLAN scholars college readiness will be enhanced through program participation resulting in 60% of participants enrolling in a higher education institution upon successful completion of high school.

Measurement of Goal 2: The project director will track all PLAN scholars high school graduation and successful post-secondary education enrollment. This information will be documented and recorded using a project participant outcomes database.