

**CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)**

**Final Program Narrative Report
(LSTA Form 9)**

Grant Information

Library Jurisdiction	Fresno County Public Library
Project Title	Learn. Enrich. Achieve. Play: LEAP Center
Grant Award #	40-8253
Grant Period	July 2014-August 2014
Amount of Grant Award	\$50,000
Amount of Grant Expended	\$45,986
Local Match	
In-Kind	\$101,733
Total Amount of Project (amount expended + match + in-kind)	\$147,719
Number of Persons Served (should not include total population of service area or potential population to be reached)	425

Project Director

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This report is due on the date listed in the LSTA Grant Guide for this project. Follow this link to view the Grant Guide. <http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/lsta/manage.html>

Email this report in "word format" to lsta@library.ca.gov then mail ORIGINAL and 2 copies to:

California State Library
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001
Attention: Fiscal Office - LSTA

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____
(Please sign in blue ink)

Project Final Report

A final narrative report is required on the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds following the completion of a project during each project year. The information you report will be used to complete the California State Library report of how funds were expended. Excerpts from this report may be submitted to the Federal government in their evaluation, or may be published by the State Library or shared with other institutions. Please answer all of the questions thoroughly. Please attach any reproduction copies of photographs of project activities or media produced for the project.

Project Purpose

Include your program purpose statement here

Fresno County Public Library (FCPL) developed the LEAP Center and associated programs because FCPL cares about and wants to better serve the social, emotional, developmental and cognitive growth of children with special needs and their parent/caregivers who reside in Fresno County. FCPL wants to develop, grow and expand library services to the special needs community while creating inclusion for all children.

The LEAP Center and programs will attract many new users, raise awareness in the Fresno County community, and support the parents and caregivers of children with special needs. The new services will increase the use of the Library and its collections while also creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all library users.

Project Activities and Methods

How did you accomplish the project? What were the steps involved? How did you engage the target audience?

This project was carried out by attempting to closely follow the established grant application timeline; however there were obstacles in the way including a delay in remodeling the designated area, purchasing materials, purchasing applications for the iPads, and introducing the iPads. Before the grant had been awarded and any money spent, FCPL's Youth Programming Librarian began meeting with the staff at the Sunnyside Regional Library to discuss the creation of the LEAP Center and the space/service issues that might be involved since Sunnyside would have to undergo renovations. Library staff met with the Library's Facilities Department in July 2013 as Programming staff began to choose the furniture for the LEAP Center. FCPL wanted to ensure the space selected would meet all ADA requirements as well as fit into the remodeled space.

While grant funds were awarded in July 2013, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors did not accept the funds until late August 2013. Due to this delay, the ordering of materials and equipment occurred in early October with the grand-opening of the LEAP Center in March after most items arrived. The Saturday parent workshops were offered in a 10-week session from mid-February through late June 2014, and the Thursday afternoon workshops were offered in a six (6) week session from April to May 2014. FCPL delayed holding workshops until all sessions were fully planned and the LEAP Center was open. FCPL saved some of the grant funds to use after the materials for the space and feedback from the Center came in from users. This allowed FCPL to be responsive to customers and their needs. Currently the Library is still receiving some of the materials ordered for the Center as ordering for some materials was delayed.

Delays occurred in remodeling of the Center due to staffing transitions and the scheduling of other projects throughout the library system. FCPL engaged parents and their children by discussing the new LEAP Center and associated programs/workshops at all of outreach events, community meetings, and by posting information on Fresno County Public Library Facebook page and website. Programming staff also spent time at the Sunnyside Library introducing parents and children to the area, informing them of workshops and generating enthusiasm within the community.

Programming staff engaged library colleagues with a series of trainings that took place from October 2013 to January 2014. Programming staff and specialists in the community played a key role in conducting staff

trainings on child development; working with children with special needs; kindergarten readiness; brain development; and early literacy. Since the opening of the LEAP Center, FCPL has already received funding through the Foundation for Fresno County Public Library, Friends Groups and the Early Learning for Families (ELF) Grants to create an additional four early learning centers that will include resources, toys and books for families of children with exceptional need, thus expanding the LEAP Center service.

Project Outputs

What was created for the project and how much? (For instance three promotional brochures were created and 75 copies distributed; or three training classes were designed; two sessions of each were held, and 80 people were trained)

Promotional flyer to advertise the LEAP Center Workshops and PBS Ready to Learn workshops were created with 2000 distributed.

Five staff training sessions designed; five sessions held; a total of 75 staff trained.

One 10-week Parent Workshop was held with an average of 9 parents and children in attendance at each session,

One 6-week Parent/Child PBS Ready to Learn workshop was held with an average of 8 parents and children in attendance at each session.

498 library cards issued to children ages 0-8 at Sunnyside Library since the program started.

Circulation of parenting books has increased by 12% since the program started.

Circulation of parenting DVDs has increased by 9% in the LEAP Center.

Use of the LEAP Center steadily increased. A sampling showed a 100% increase in use in March.

Distributed 175 Parent Kits (geared towards specific needs).

10 storytimes conducted with a total of 120 children

Distributed 30 Knock Knock Boxes (for parent training).

FCPL established new collaborative relationships with 3 organizations: Valley PBS, The Talk Team and Early Childhood Specialist, Diana Decker.

Project Outcomes (if applicable)

Please state the outcomes and the results of your evaluation.

One major outcome of establishing the LEAP Center at the Sunnyside Branch was to increase the time spent by children and parents in the welcoming environment of the Library. Since the creation of the LEAP Center, children and parents are spending more time in the children's area, playing and interacting, rather than simply dropping in to select and check out books. The increase in use of the area has been observed by staff.

Another outcome has been the increased awareness of children with special needs and discussions about how FCPL could better serve parents and their children while making the Library a welcoming environment for all. Lastly, FCPL documented an increased use and knowledge of the parenting collection which includes a number of books having to do with children with special needs. Before the LEAP Center, the parenting books were interfiled with the other adult nonfiction and the branch lacked a comprehensive collection having to do with developmental issues, developmental delays and books about children with special needs. Since the materials were pulled out into a separate collection and an inviting space was created for the LEAP Center, we saw a significant increase in use of the library, and specifically these specialized materials.

Additional Project Outcomes

Please state any additional intended or unintended outcomes and what data sources you used.

An unintended consequence of the workshops was the realization that FCPL needs to provide childcare to ensure a successful program. Having childcare and enrichment activities in the Library during the workshops would have resulted in a larger turnout of parents for the programs held on Saturdays.

Even though the informational workshops were open to families, many parents found it a struggle to stay focused and enjoy the workshop while looking after a restless child. Unlike the PBS Ready to Learn Workshops, where childcare was provided so parents could be fully engaged, focused and ready to learn during the trainings, the Library did not offer the service. Moving forward, FCPL will now make sure to include a childcare component in its parent-focused workshops.

Anecdotal Information

Tell us a story. Give two or more examples of how the project has helped an individual or group in your community.

During the grand-opening, Kari Johnson, the Library's Youth Coordinator, connected with a sweet family that happened to be in the Library that day. This young family expressed concern that they were struggling with their two young children and were seeking services that could help them improve their parenting skills and also support the diverse needs of their children. This same family ended up attending almost every workshop and the LEAP Center truly made a profound impact on them. It was heart-warming to see an unassuming mother and father become fully engaged in the services offered. FCPL is happy to catch these moments through pictures that showed parents engaged in learning and conversation together. It was a great experience to watch the relationships and sense of community develop between the parents who attended the workshops and the parents/children in the LEAP Center area. As the weeks progressed, parents felt more empowered about their role as their children's first teachers. Moreover, it was wonderful to see the parents build relationships with one another and share ideas and ask questions about their children's development and behavior.

Since the opening of LEAP Center, Sunnyside staff have observed that many of the parents would stay in the library to let their children play in the LEAP Center and they continue talking with one another. Parents also had become very used to meeting on Saturday mornings and were sad to see the workshops end. All of the parents who filled out the survey after workshop remarked that the Library has helped them become better parents. For one parent it was the introduction to brain development, language development, behavior management and the vast amount of parenting books and resources that made a difference for her family.

Staff also observed many children participate in imaginative play in the kitchen area and with the puppets. One parent commented "My children now love coming to the library," and "I did not know you had all of these resources." It was affirming to hear all the positive comments from a community that

appreciated the resources. All parents participating in workshops remarked how helpful the workshops were and how they would utilize the skills learned with their children. Several teachers attended the workshops and were looking forward to sharing the ideas with the parents they work with.

Exemplary Project

If you feel your project was exemplary and others could learn from it and replicate it, please tell us why.

FCPL provided an engaging and inclusive area that special needs children and their parents value as a resource. The Sunnyside Library's LEAP Center became a welcoming environment that empowered children with various abilities to engage in library services and programming while providing parents/caregivers with a place where they can feel welcome while learning about essential community resources that will benefit their families.

FEEDBACK FOR THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY ON THE GRANT PROCESS

We want to learn and improve our grant processes. Please let us know what worked and what we could do differently to make it a better experience. Thank you!

Through this process, I also learned many things from the obstacles encountered with purchasing materials, seeking bids, planning marketing strategies, managing a grant and introducing a new technology. I faced many challenges and struggles through this process but along the way, I learned a vast amount of information that will help with the success of other grants. Suzanne Flint is an amazing and supportive grant coordinator. Her involvement on this project helped me prevail during difficult times and her feedback improved the services offered. The support of Suzanne means the world to me and I am so thankful to have her as the grant coordinator. Thank you for giving Fresno County Public Library the opportunity to introduce a new and long overdue service to our community. ~ Kari Johnson, Youth Services Coordinator.

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