

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

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

Grant Information

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Library Jurisdiction | Califa Group |
| Project Title | Early Learning Statewide Initiative: Year 1 |
| Grant Award # | 40-8260 |
| Grant Period | July 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014 |
| Amount of Grant Award | \$518,000 |
| Amount of Grant Expended | \$518,000 |
| Local Match | |
| In-Kind | \$55,000 |
| Total Amount of Project (amount expended + match + in-kind) | \$573,000 |
| Number of Persons Served (should not include total population of service area or potential population to be reached) | 300,000 |

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

This grant is the first year of a multi-year statewide initiative intended to further the continued evolution and enhancement of library services for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, their families and caregivers (including daycare and preschool providers). In order to fortify the role of libraries as early learning resources, three goals were identified for the first year of this initiative:

- 1) Professional Development: provide library staff with grounding in the fundamentals of early childhood development as well as examples of best practices that support early learning and family engagement.
- 2) Networking & Resource Sharing: create opportunities for library staff to share ideas, strategies and tools, thereby helping them learn from each other; foster communities of practice where resources are leveraged for the greatest good; encourage evidenced-based early learning practices throughout the state.
- 3) Community Partnerships: identify and solidify partnerships with other state agencies dedicated to supporting early childhood development, and encourage local libraries to create and maintain a wide array of partnerships with other early childhood stakeholders in their respective communities.

With over 3.7 million children ages 5 and under in California, libraries can and should be important community resources for early learning. This initiative is intended to help advance excellence in the provision of library services to our very youngest citizens and their families.

Project Activities and Methods

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

Created a new Early Learning with Families (ELF 2.0) logo, as well as a new website, YouTube channel, Pinterest account and Facebook page (see <http://elf2.library.ca.gov>).

Designed and delivered a professional development 3 day Pre-Conference (November 1-3, 2013) that included nationally recognized content experts and state partners. Sessions explored relevant topics from child development and technology use to incorporating music, art and play into library settings (for agenda see ATTACHMENT A).

Created and administered an online field survey to ascertain needed early learning resources.

Based on the field survey, created and administered a targeted funding allocation opportunity -- directly delivering \$220,000 dollars of early learning materials and resources to 51 libraries throughout the state.

Facilitated the provision of a California Family Place Training that took place on February 3-5, 2014 in Carson, CA. Funded the attendance of 16 staff from around the state as part of the targeted funding allocation.

Designed and delivered 6 professional development webinars and 3 regional networking meetings on topics related to early learning .

Designed and produced 3 short YouTube videos (including a community partner testimonial) that are now posted to the ELF 2.0 website and YouTube channel.

Began developing an online toolkit on the topic of technology use, libraries and young children. It became evident that this topic was larger and more complex than originally perceived. In addition, the content expert hired to assist with this aspect of the grant was unable to embrace the core values of the ELF initiative, lacked any real expertise, and failed to accomplish the deliverables for which she was hired. Accordingly, these deliverables will now take longer to complete than initially planned. In addition, more foundational work was needed on which to base the toolkit. In particular, compiling a research based bibliography on the topic became the first priority, and was undertaken over the summer with a number of library staff and student volunteers from around the country. The bibliography will be finalized in early fall 2014 and then the actual toolkit will be developed during Year 2 of this statewide initiative.

Began plans for Year 2 of this statewide initiative, including designing an ELF 2.0 Summit for November 2014, creating two presentations on early learning related topics for the CLA 2014 annual conference, and developing several collaborative state and national partnerships. These include working with CDE and CA First 5 to attend the national BUILD initiative meeting in New Orleans in October 2014, presentations at the CA Head Start and CA First 5 annual conferences in February 2015, and an ALA presentation (already accepted for 2015) with the Raising of America project. Most importantly, a formal partnership with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center was brokered to help with the development of a library specific training curriculum based on the Touchpoints model of child development and family engagement. The curriculum development will be one of the primary focuses of the initiative's second year.

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)

PRE-CONFERENCE

2 advisory committee meetings were held in Sacramento with 12 ELF 2.0 advisors from around the state
114 attended the Pre-Conference, representing teams of 2 from 51 library jurisdictions + 12 ELF 2.0 advisors
114 responded to the online Pre-Conference evaluation survey

TARGETED FUNDING ALLOCATION

104 responded to the online field survey administered to ascertain needed early learning resources
52 library jurisdictions were awarded targeted funding allocations, out of 71 applicant jurisdictions
52 jurisdictions completed an online evaluation survey regarding their targeted allocation
\$220,000 in funding paid for training and/or supplies that impacted more than 40,000 children and families

WEBINARS

7 webinars were designed and delivered as follows:

- 02/06/14: Beyond the Rhymes: Part 1 - 203 attended live; 444 archived views to date
- 02/11/14: Beyond the Rhymes: Part 2 - 140 attended live; 272 archived views to date
- 02/20/14: Beyond the Rhymes: Part 3 - 121 attended live; 221 archived views to date
- 04/10/14: Foundations of Child Development - 137 attended live; 193 archived views to date
- 05/08/14: Young Children and New Media - 74 attended live; 96 archived views to date
- 06/12/14: Creative Spaces/Family Engagement - 83 attended live; 129 archived views to date

568 responded to the online webinar evaluation surveys, out of a total of 758 who attended the live webinars. Responses indicated that all 6 webinars were effectively delivered and offered meaningful content to those in attendance.

NETWORKING MEETINGS

3 regional networking meetings were designed and delivered, at which 180 library staff attended:

- 01/29/14 - El Dorado County Library - 53 attendees
- 03/05/14 - San Jose Public Library - 52 attendees

- 05/14/14 - Riverside Public Library - 75 attendees
- 180 responded to the regional meeting evaluation surveys

81 library jurisdictions participated, in one capacity or another, in this year of the ELF 2.0 initiative (for list of libraries see ATTACHMENT B).

Project Outcomes (if applicable)

Please state the outcomes and the results of your evaluation.

Pre-Conference evaluation: A 100% response rate was achieved with all 114 attendees completing the evaluation. Highlights include the following:

- 98.2% indicated that the Pre-Conference DID advance their overall knowledge and skills
- 93.9% indicated that they plan to present the information learned to other library staff
- 99.1% indicated that they plan to apply Pre-Conference learning in their work

Targeted Funding Allocation evaluation: A 100% response rate was achieved with all 52 library jurisdictions completing the evaluation survey. Of these allocations, 17% received additional professional development training, 64% received equipment or supplies to enhance their children's spaces and/or programs, and 19% received both training and supplies. 94.34% reported that this targeted funding approach was very helpful in getting needed resources and/or training for their libraries and that the impact on end users (young children and families) was profound (see Anecdotal Information below for some specific feedback).

Regional meeting evaluations: A 100% response rate was achieved with all 180 attendees completing the evaluation for the respective meetings attended. Results continued to mirror the Pre-Conference feedback with over 98% responding that the meetings advanced their overall knowledge and that the knowledge gained would be applied to their work.

Additional Project Outcomes

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

Our ability to establish a partnership with the national Brazelton Touchpoints Center has been an important and additional outcome of this project. Furthermore, by identifying and enlisting seven library staff from libraries around the state who attended the current Touchpoints Early Childhood Educator training in March 2014 and who will now form the team developing the library specific Touchpoints training, will help us to begin the second year of this initiative well prepared and able to advance the overall professional development goals of this initiative.

Anecdotal Information

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

Below are several comments provided by the field regarding the targeted funding allocation as well as the overall impact of the ELF 2.0 initiative:

Thank you for this opportunity. This grant allowed staff to work toward transforming a uninviting and underutilized space into a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere that is much needed and appreciated by the community who is able to take advantage of these resources. Many of the children (ages 0-5) do not attend formal child care settings and can learn and use the skills for which this play and learn equipment provides opportunities. -South San Francisco Public Library.

We are incredibly grateful to the State Library for this targeted funding grant, and for giving us the opportunity to enhance our services to children and families. We have seen immediate results, with

higher program attendance, and have had tremendous positive feedback regarding our improved programs and services from those children and families we serve. Thank you! - Folsom Public Library

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to enhance our programs and outreach efforts. We would also like to thank you for having regional meetings again and would welcome the opportunity to continue these meetings in the future. -Butte County Public Library.

This was a timely and tremendous opportunity. It provided the resources and professional development to support and engage staff in a new programmatic approach to connecting with families. In many ways, it refreshed our early literacy efforts and promoted the library as a PLAYFUL destination for families, and our families overwhelming responded. Thank you, again, for this opportunity. -San Francisco Public Library

Our Children's Room can finally demonstrate to parents and caregivers the importance of play in early learning thanks to the furnishings and materials the targeted allocation allowed us to obtain. -Alhambra Civic Center Library

It was a wonderful opportunity to expand the Family Place philosophy to more staff. -Sacramento Public Library.

Thank you for the opportunity! Honestly, I thought my department's collective understanding and use of developmentally appropriate services was greater than it actually was. Working with the ELF 2.0 initiative pointed out some areas of weakness, but that also provided the leverage needed to give encouragement for professional growth for the department as a whole. I'm glad we participated. -Santa Clarita Public Library.

We would love to see this program continue even if it was scaled down. We all greatly benefited (staff and families) and in turn will share with neighboring library systems some of our training and ideas. Great job! -Long Beach Public Library

Overall, this grant has the ability to transform ANY library into a better place for families to visit. While some people may not like the extra noise and clutter, having materials and activities for young children in the library helps build future generations of library users who connect the library with fun activities rather than a dull place where learning is forced. We need our children to retain their curiosity and love of learning so that they can grow into adults who can keep up with the rapid pace of the twenty-first century. Libraries also need to remember to continue to retool and rethink themselves, and this grant offers one way to do just that. -Santa Fe Springs City Library

Exemplary Project

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

Many libraries in California provide excellent and innovative services for young children. However, a sobering number function with very limited staff understanding regarding the ages and stages of child development and how these stages must inform the delivery of service...changing and expanding as the child and family grow. This initiative, and the Touchpoints curriculum to be developed in the coming years, has the potential to transform the library profession by providing a stronger knowledge base and skill level for all library staff working with very young children and their families. Interest from other libraries across the country as well as various schools of library science has been high and we hope to share the Touchpoints curriculum (once developed) broadly in the coming years.

This initial year has set the stage and this project has already been exemplary - reaching across the state with a response which has been overwhelmingly positive -- both from participating libraries, community and state partners, as well as the children and families directly served. This initiative has helped to position public libraries as an essential early learning resource for communities throughout the state, transforming libraries, the individuals and entities they serve, and the way in which they are regarded and valued.

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!

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