Innovative Approaches to Literacy, Office of Elementary & Secondary Education
(No posted Deadlines - Last funded June 2014 $24,341,646)

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Website: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/index.html

Program Description

The IAL program supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need local educational agencies and schools. The Department intends to support innovative programs that promote early literacy for young children, motivate older children to read, and increase student achievement by using school libraries as partners to improve literacy, distributing free books to children and their families, and offering high-quality literacy activities.

Proposed projects under the IAL program, based on those plans, may include, among other things, activities that—
(a) Increase access to a wide range of literacy resources (either print or electronic) that prepare young children to read, and provide learning opportunities to all participating students;
(b) Provide high-quality childhood literacy activities with meaningful opportunities for parental engagement, including encouraging parents to read books often with their children in their early years of life and school, and teaching parents how to use literacy resources effectively;
(c) Strengthen literacy development across academic content areas by providing a wide range of literacy resources spanning a range of both complexity and content (including both literature and informational text) to effectively support reading and writing;
(d) Offer appropriate educational interventions for all readers with support from school libraries or national not-for-profit organizations;
(e) Foster collaboration and joint professional development opportunities for teachers, school leaders, and school library personnel with a focus on using literacy resources effectively to support reading and writing and academic achievement. For example, an approach to professional development within the IAL program might be collaboration between library and school personnel to plan subject-specific pedagogy that is differentiated based on each student's developmental level and is supported by universal design for learning (as defined in this notice), technology, and other educational strategies.
(f) Provide resources to support literacy-rich academic and enrichment activities and services aligned with state college and career-ready standards (as defined in this notice) and the comprehensive statewide literacy plan (as defined in this notice).

Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy
Office of Early Learning, [Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs](#)
(No deadlines posted, last funded in 2013 $151,368,112)

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Program Description
The purpose of **Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy** (SRCL) discretionary grants is to create a comprehensive literacy program to advance literacy skills — including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing — for students from birth through grade 12, including limited-English-proficient students and students with disabilities.

Discretionary grants were awarded to six State Educational Agencies. They will use 95% of the award to make sub-grants to Local Educational Agencies or certain early childhood education providers to support services and activities that have the characteristics of effective literacy instruction through professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level, and other research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice.

Georgia received $21,220,623 for year two of this grant. The Georgia Literacy Plan is at the link below: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/literacyprofiles.html

Early Reading First, Office of Early Learning,
(No deadlines posted, last funded in 2009, $117,666,000)

Program Contact: Deborah Spitz
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Program Description
The program supports the development of early childhood centers of excellence that focus on all areas of development, especially on the early language, cognitive, and pre-reading skills that prepare children for continued school success and that serve primarily children from low-income families.

Grants are designed to help early childhood centers improve their programs, by creating centers of excellence that provide preschool-age children with language and cognitive skills, and an early reading foundation. Funds must be used to:

·   Enhance children's language, cognitive, and early reading skills through professional development for teachers;

·   Provide early language and reading development and instructional materials as developed from scientifically based reading research;

·   Provide preschool-age children with cognitive learning opportunities in high quality language and literature-rich environments;

·   Use screening assessments to effectively identify preschool children who may be at risk for reading failure; and

·   Improve existing early childhood programs by integrating scientifically based reading research into all aspects of the program (including instructional materials, teaching strategies, curricula, parent engagement, and professional development).

The Fund for the Improvement of Education
(No posted deadlines at this time, programs last funded in 2010 $135,461,000)

Program Contact: Carol Lyons

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Program Description
The Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) supports "Program of National Significance" as well as grants to state and local education agencies, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations and other public and private entities that have been identified by the Congress in appropriations legislation. All funded programs must be designed so that their effectiveness is readily ascertainable and is assessed using rigorous, scientifically based research and evaluations. Each application for funds must establish clear objectives that are based on scientifically based research for the proposed program and must describe the activities the applicant will carry out in order to meet the stated objectives.

Programs of National Significance: FIE provides authority for the secretary to support nationally significant programs to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education at the state and local levels and help all students meet challenging state academic content standards and student achievement standards. The types of programs that may be supported include:

- Activities to promote systemic education reform at the state and local levels, including scientifically based research, development, and evaluation designed to improve student academic achievement at the state and local levels and strategies for effective parent and community involvement. Programs at the state and local levels that are designed to yield significant results, including programs to explore approaches to public school choice and school-based decision-making.
- Recognition programs, including financial awards to states, local education agencies (LEAs), and schools that have made the greatest progress in improving the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students and students from major racial and ethnic minority groups and in closing the academic achievement gap for those groups of students farthest away from the proficient level on the academic assessments administered by the state under Sec. 1111 of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Scientifically based studies and evaluations of education reform strategies and innovations and the dissemination of information on the effectiveness of those strategies and innovations.

Title I, Part A - Disadvantaged Children

Program Contact: Margo DeLaune, Director
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This act provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. These funds may be used for children from preschool aged to high school. Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. Title I funds can be used to purchase materials and equipment.

Innovation Fund Grant Opportunities (Georgia-Race to the Top Grant)
(Most recent grant cycle closed October 27, 2014)

Alive STUDIOS

Program Contact: Rebecca Ellis
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Program Description
The Innovation Fund has received $5 million in FY15 state funding to provide grants to local education agencies (LEAs), schools, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations focused on planning, implementing or scaling innovative education programs.

Priority Areas
·   Applied Learning with a Focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education,
·   Development and Replication of Blended Learning School Models,
·   Development and Replication of Innovative Resource Management Models, and
·   Teacher and Leader Induction and Development

United Way Metro Atlanta
(Annual deadline in mid-February, FY2016 RFP not posted as of 11/11/14)

Website: http://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/for-non-profits/

Program Description
United Way joined forces with a coalition of early childhood advocates and professionals to implement a collaborative professional development model focused on helping low-income preschool children avoid reading difficulties. <u>United Way funding can be used to purchase evidenced based literacy solutions.</u>

Aspects of this model include:
·   Mentoring for highly trained facilitators to support language and literacy instruction in the classroom.
·   **Equipping early childhood professionals with quality resources and materials so they can fully integrate literacy throughout their classrooms and outdoor play environments.**
·   Supporting early childhood teachers as they learn to teach based on assessments and identify children who may be at risk of reading failure.
·   Conducting ongoing child and classroom screenings and assessments.

·   Providing early childhood teachers and elementary school staff with ongoing professional development.

·   Engaging families in reinforcing the literacy skills at home.

21 Century Community Learning Centers
(Deadline: January 28, 2015)

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http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx

Program Description
This program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. Funds are distributed to States and re-granted to schools, non-profits etc. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.