



Application

PART 1: Community Information

Community name and state: Sacramento, CA

Your community is applying as a: ☐ Village ☐ Town ☐ Tribe ☒ City ☐ County ☐ Region If applying as a region, name participating communities:

Has your community applied before? ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes, which years: 2012

Has your community been a Finalist before? ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, which years:

Has your community been an All-America City before? ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, which years:

unsure, you can look up past winners [here](#))

Is your community part of the GLR Communities Network?

Yes ☒ No ☐

PART 2: Contact Information

1. Primary application lead contact (primary contact person available throughout competition & follow-up):

Name:

Title:

Organization/Government/Other:

Julius Austin Promise Zone Coordinator Sacramento Promise Zone: Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency 601 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814 jaustin@shra.org 916-449-6212	April Javist Executive Director Sacramento Literacy Foundation april@sacramentoliteracy.org 2411 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 120 Sacramento, CA 95817 916-836-3540 916-266-3103
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If named a finalist, your community will receive a complimentary membership (or membership renewal if an AAC application was submitted last year) to the National Civic League for one year. To whom should this membership be directed?

Same as above

2. We agree to follow the National Civic League's rules regarding use of the All America City Award logo, a registered trademark of the National Civic League. We allow the League and the All-America City Award to share this application and the information enclosed in it with League and AAC networks to promote the work of our community. If we are named an All-America City, we agree to conduct a post-AAC conference call or regional forum for the AAC network that features our projects. If named a finalist, we understand and commit to sending a community delegation to attend and compete in the three-day virtual All-America City Award event, held in conjunction with the virtual GLR Week 2022 conference. In a pay-it-forward spirit, if named a finalist or All-America City, we agree to consider supporting AAC through a National Civic League membership for a minimum of the next three years.

Primary application lead signature:

Name:

APRIL JAVIST

Date: 2/28/2022

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If the application primary lead is not affiliated with the local governing authority (town, city, county), please have a local government official endorse the application, verifying their support and involvement,

below. Authorized signatories include mayors, council members, city managers, assistant city managers and department heads. Email aac22@ncl.org with any questions.

City Official Name: Darrell Steinberg

Title: Mayor

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

Date: 2/28/2022

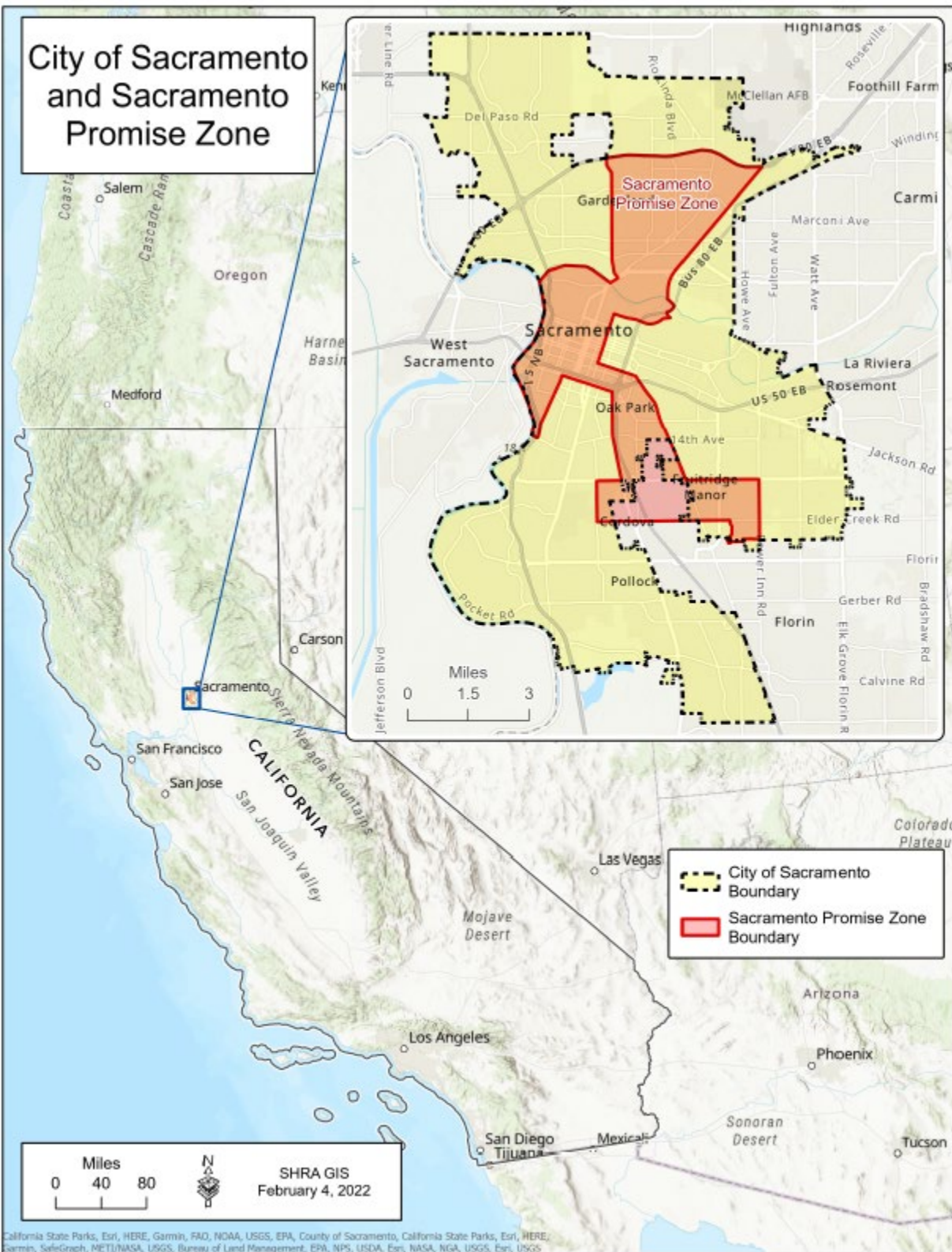
PART 3: Community Statistics and Map

Note: Use the most up-to-date statistics possible for your neighborhood, town, city, county, or region (source suggestions: U.S. Census Bureau, State Department of Economic Security, State Department of Finance, Department of Public Health and local school statistics).

GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARY SERVED: City, County, Entire Metro Area, Multiple Counties, Neighborhood, School District, School Feeder Pattern, Small Town, Other

POPULATION (most recent Census):				
POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2010–2020 (indicate + or –):	2020			
	Promise Zone Area			
RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATION BREAKDOWN:	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
White	38,006	+	25.86%	-
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	53,767	+	36.59%	+
Black or African American	18,607	+	12.66%	-
Asian	24,119	+	16.41%	-
American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)	1,037	+	0.71%	-
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2,456	+	1.67%	+
Mixed Race	7,917	+	5.39%	+
Other	1035	+	0.70%	+
Source/Date: 2010, 2020 Decennial Census Table P2				
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP (percentages, if available):	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
19 years old and under	35,858	-	26.66%	-
20–24	9,727	-	7.23%	+
25–44	46,208	+	0	+
45–64	28,750	flat	0	-
65 and over	13,943	+	0	-
Source/Date: 2010 Decennial Table P12, 2019 Table B01001 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
	Number		Percent	
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL:	6,040	-	23.04%	-
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	10,852	-	9.44%	-
PERCENTAGE OF HOME OWNERSHIP:	15,964	-	32.58%	-
Source/Date: 2010, 2019 Census Tables B17010, S2301, B25003 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
Note: Promise Zone Poverty and Homeownership Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				
NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS COVERED BY/INVOLVED WITH:				
• Total number of students (K–12) in each district involved.	17,590	+		
• Percentage (and number) of K–12 students on free and reduced- price lunch for each district involved.	14,041	+	80%	-
Source/Date: California Department of Education 2011 & 2021				
WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION — Name the three largest employment sectors (include military services and/or installations, if any) in your community and provide the percentage of total employed in each:	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	11,292	+	19.63%	+
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative, and waste management services	7,545	+	13.12%	+
Public administration	5,490	+	9.54%	+
Arts entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services	7,243	+	12.59%	-
Source/Date: 2010, 2019 Census Table C24030 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
Note: Promise Zone Workforce Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT BREAKDOWN	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
Bachelor’s Degree or higher	18,901		21.26%	+
Some college or Associate degree	25,798		29.02%	+
High School or GED	22,160		24.93%	-
Less than High School	17,036		19.16%	-
No schooling	5,006		5.63%	-
Source/Date: Census Table B15002, B15003 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
Note: Promise Zone Educational Attainment Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				

POPULATION (most recent Census):				
POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2010–2020 (indicate + or –):	2020			
	City of Sacramento			
RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATION BREAKDOWN:	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
White	158,999	-	30.29%	-
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	151,253	+	28.81%	+
Black or African American	66,012	-	12.58%	-
Asian	102,200	+	19.47%	+
American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)	2,480	-	0.47%	-
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	8,282	+	1.58%	+
Mixed Race	32,200	+	6.13%	+
Other	3,517	+	0.67%	+
Source/Date: 2010, 2020 Decennial Census Table P2				
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP (percentages, if available):	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
19 years old and under	127,295	-	25.41%	-
20–24	34,482	-	6.88%	-
25–44	160,016	+	31.94%	+
45–64	113,508	+	22.66%	-
65 and over	65,629	+	13.10%	+
Source/Date: 2010 Decennial Table P12, 2019 Table B01001 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL:	Number		Percent	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	13,350	+	12.12%	-
PERCENTAGE OF HOME OWNERSHIP:	27,812	-	7.0%	-
Source/Date: 2010, 2019 Census Tables B17010, S2301, B25003 ACS 5-Year Estimates	89,823	+	48.47%	-
Note: Promise Zone Poverty and Homeownership Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				
NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS COVERED BY/INVOLVED WITH:				
• Total number of students (K–12) in each district involved.	95,379	+		
• Percentage (and number) of K–12 students on free and reduced- price lunch for each district involved.	61,681	-	65%	-
Source/Date: California Department of Education 2011 & 2021				
WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION — Name the three largest employment sectors (include military services and/or installations, if any) in your community and provide the percentage of total employed in each:	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	53,710	+	22.87%	+
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative, and waste management services	29,145	+	12.41%	-
Public administration	27,750	+	11.81%	-
Arts entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services	23,921	+	10.18%	+
Source/Date: 2010, 2019 Census Table C24030 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
Note: Promise Zone Workforce Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT BREAKDOWN	Number	2010-20 Change	Percent	2010-20 Change
Bachelor’s Degree or higher	112,293	+	33.11%	+
Some college or Associate degree	104,765	+	30.89%	+
High School or GED	72,117	+	21.26%	+
Less than High School	37,646	-	11.10%	-
No schooling	12,332	+	3.64%	+
Source/Date: Census Table B15002, B15003 ACS 5-Year Estimates				
Note: Promise Zone Educational Attainment Data is provided in 2010 by Tract and in 2019 by Block Group				



PART 4: Tell Your Community's Story

*Please summarize your community's story. What is something we need to understand about your community? Focus on the last ten years of your community's progress and development and describe how that progress has benefited your residents. Discuss the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on your community, taking into consideration all age groups. Please include any additional demographic information that you think would be helpful, beyond the demographic information already provided in your cover page(s) above. It would also help to illuminate the history, character, strengths and challenges of your community.
(500 word maximum)*

In 2011, when the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading presented at the Water Cooler Conference the Sacramento Literacy Foundation (Foundation) was raising funds for the Sacramento Public Library's literacy initiatives. Upon learning that not reading in the summer was one of the top three reasons a child fell behind, the Foundation challenged the Library to grow its Summer Reading Program (SRP) and challenged itself to give more support to the SRP. Three housing professionals were on the Foundation's Board, including Beth Southorn, Executive Director of LifeSTEPS.

Over the next six years, the Library went from enrolling 6,000 children to 30,000 children and the number of children who finished the program, i.e. read five books, went from 1,000 to 17,000. The Foundation gave the library over one million dollars to achieve these results. In 2013, LifeSTEPS partnered with the Library to enroll its affordable housing residents into the Library's SRP. After three years of development, LifeSTEPS has a program with a pre and post assessment that shows 98% of children participants holding or increased their reading skills.

In 2015, Sacramento was awarded a Promise Zone designation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that under the umbrella of its public housing agency, the Sacramento Redevelopment and Housing Agency (SHRA). The Sacramento Promise Zone (Promise Zone) designation has created partnerships amongst federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders proven tools to improve the quality of life in some of the most vulnerable areas in Sacramento. By building the capacity of partner organizations and facilitating cross-sector collaboration, the PZ seeks to improve educational outcomes, foster a sustainable economic base, accelerate job creation, promote healthy behaviors, and support sustainably built communities.

In 2020, at the end of nearly two semesters of COVID-19 the Foundation and the SPZ created the "Promise Zone Literacy Initiative". This Literacy Initiative and fundraising effort around it are putting books in students' homes, partnering with schools to bring evidence-based reading instruction into K-2 classrooms through: curriculum, teacher training, and after-school interventions, and supporting summer reading programs to increase participation and impact. The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative gave 30,000 books to the approximately 4,000 K-2 students attending each of the 20 public elementary schools in the Promise Zone. Although this approach led to positive connection with school leaders, COVID-19 has, in general, reduced engagement with the education community. LifeSTEPS has continued its reading programming, even thru the pandemic, and have branded its summer reading program, "Big Fun in the Sun." The continuation of LifeSTEPS literacy programs has proven itself sustainable, which is what we need. Our kids need ongoing, simple, and fun gateways to reading.

The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative has given Sacramento a platform to deepen partnerships and networks among the literacy and housing communities. In developing this application, we met with our partners on Zoom on two occasions to develop our application. While not all participants are listed in detail in the following application, we received input from more than 20 agencies.

PART 5: Describe Your Community Effort to Promote Early School Success and Equitable Learning Recovery, Using Housing as a Platform

Describe a community-driven effort, program or initiative that is improving the prospects for early school success and equitable learning recovery for children whose families are served by public housing agencies and affordable housing organizations. High-quality submissions will include one or more of the areas of focus described earlier in the application: (1) digital equity; (2) relational supports (tutors, mentors, coaches); (3) afterschool, summer and out-of-school learning opportunities; (4) transforming non-school places and spaces into learning-rich environments; (5) promoting school readiness, regular attendance, summer learning; (6) parents succeeding as essential partners in assuring the healthy development and early school success of their children; and (7) parents succeeding in their own journey toward sustainable self-sufficiency.

ALL submissions must feature meaningful engagement with PHAs and/or affordable housing development organizations as a partner in your program/initiative around early school success and equitable learning recovery. *Since the topic is around recovery, efforts may be complete if designed as a short-term intervention and can certainly build on relationships, collaborations and partnerships that were in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Complete descriptions will include responses to each of the six award criteria: (1) the problem, (2) the destination, (3) the strategy, (4) connecting for synergy, (5) data and (6) success and sustainability. As noted earlier, the sub bullets in each of these six criteria are meant as guides only.

THE PROBLEM

In Sacramento, statistically the most diverse city in America, we have come to believe that reading is the most critical equity skill we can teach our children. Reading is agency. Reading and not reading is correlated with nearly every positive and negative outcome, respectively. Our community is creating solutions that will increase children's reading proficiency at an accelerated rate.

When COVID-19 emerged, March 2020, 3rd grade readers were achieving a 46% reading proficiency rate, an increase of 13% from 2012. COVID-19 is projected to reduce reading levels 10%-20%, with disproportionate decreases in communities of color and communities experiencing poverty. Approximately 35% of children in the Sacramento Promise Zone can read at grade-level and 84% are eligible for the Free and Reduced Priced Meals (FRPM). Data gathered showed a significant correlation between Sacramento students who are eligible for FRPM and students who are not reading at grade-level. Because students who qualify for FRPMs are typically low-income students, we see that lower income students have lower reading rates.

Since 2012, Sacramento literacy providers, school districts, housing agencies, philanthropists, policy makers, and higher education institutions have been working together and with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. to increase children's reading rates. Our literacy movement has developed over this past decade and today is finding a renewed collective commitment as we face the repercussions of COVID19.

THE DESTINATION: THE PROMISE ZONE LITERACY INITIATIVE Both co-leads of this application are community conveners that have been coordinating among their key stakeholders for several years. Our Promise Zone, administered by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) is one of 22 nationally designated communities. With more than 150 key partners, is committed to coordinate resources and create public-private partnerships to drive area revitalization. By building partner organizations' capacity and facilitating cross-sector collaboration, the Sacramento Promise Zone (Promise Zone) seeks to improve educational outcomes, foster a sustainable economic base, accelerate job creation, promote healthy behaviors, and support sustainably built communities.

The Promise Zone encompasses 22 square miles of the economically hardest-hit neighborhoods in Sacramento. While the City of Sacramento has 12,300 affordable housing units, with 9,046 designated for families, the Promise Zone has 4,370 affordable housing units and 2,773 are designated for families. More than 30% of residents in the Promise Zone have yet to achieve a high school diploma or GED. Nearly a quarter of the residents are foreign-born with limited English proficiency. The Promise Zone also has alarmingly high unemployment and mortality rates.

Before, COVID-19, Sacramento's literacy community worked together to help all children read at grade-level. With the Sacramento Literacy Foundation (Foundation) serving as the fiduciary, we created the Walk4Literacy; a four mile walk to meet new supporters and bring attention to our literacy crisis. The Foundation, with the support of Golden 1 Credit Union, created the Community Literacy Map (Map) which measures county literacy rates annually and publishes an annual report card. In addition to supporting the literacy community with current data, the map will help measure the COVID- slide once testing resumes. Both co-leads have created a common goal, have acted as an organizational anchor, and have shared activities and data -- both have met the conditions of Collective Impact.

Now two collective impact efforts are connecting for better literacy results. In 2020, the Foundation and the Promise Zone created a new initiative together: The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative. The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative combines the established relationships of the Foundation and Promise Zone. We are leveraging the Foundation's mission: to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance literacy skills, and the Promise Zone's commitment to improving educational outcomes. Our goal is to get all children in the Promise Zone reading at grade-level.

Our approach is to combine and leverage our networks to put culturally relevant books into Promise Zone children's hands, support program capacity and participation of summer reading programs (SRP), and support evidence-based reading instruction in K-2 grade classrooms.

THE STRATEGY

To help a child learn to read we must meet their basic needs and give them a good book. Promise Zone Literacy Initiative is advancing information sharing and coordination of efforts amongst schools and school districts, literacy providers, affordable housing communities and their supportive service providers to create better literacy outcomes for families in the Promise Zone. Together the Promise Zone and the Foundation are integrating their respective networks and activities to achieve a more powerful combined effect, removing barriers to success and supporting students to achieve greater academic results.

Our strategy of intensifying resources directed to specific school and housing communities is exemplified by the following:

1. Putting culturally relevant books in children's hands and homes. How important are books in the home? As Pacific Standard reports, research gathered between 2011-2015 confirms that people who grow up with books at home tend to have higher reading comprehension and better mathematical and digital communication skills. We will continue to increase book giveaways in the 20 elementary schools and the affordable housing communities in the Promise Zone.
2. Supporting summer reading initiatives and out of school time programs that are working. One of the top three reasons children fall behind is because they don't read in the summer. COVID showed us that any sustained period without adequate reading activities creates 'a reading slide.'
3. 2022's Walk4Literacy will be in person and in the Promise Zone. Since 2014, the Foundation has been the backbone of the Walk4Literacy, an event designed to bring attention and resources to our literacy crisis. This year's walk on October

1, 2022 will be a 4-mile walk through neighborhoods in the southern part of the Promise Zone, that passes 4 elementary schools and ends at the McClatchy Park with a Family Literacy Festival.

The Foundation surveyed Walk4Literacy partner/participant organizations and asked, 1. Should the Walk4Literacy continue, and 2. If yes, should we split the net proceeds among participating organizations or maintain the grant cycle established that returns net proceeds back to the community? Partners wanted the Walk4Literacy and the established grant cycle to continue. Our partners are committed to this year's event and will bring students, teachers, families and friends. We are expecting 2000-4000 walkers this year.

4. **Sacramento Literacy Day/Month.** In 2019, Sacramento's Literacy community asked the Sacramento County Supervisors, and the Cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Elk Grove to sign proclamations recognizing September as literacy month and September 8th as literacy day. These proclamations help keep literacy in front of our policy makers annually.

CONNECTING FOR SYNERGY

After taking stock with our partners, we chose to highlight our collective efforts in focus areas (1) After-School, Summer and Out-of-School Learning Opportunities and (2) Transforming Non-School Places and Spaces into Learning-Rich Environments.

After-School, Summer, and Out-of-School Learning Opportunities

Sacramento has several after-school, out-of-school, and summer literacy programs that found new solutions during the pandemic. Literacy data gathered for 2019-2020 school year shows that 14,000 children were served in new and creative ways including pivoting to on-line virtual learning and tutoring spaces, establishing a virtual tutoring program using evidence-based instruction, and establishing virtual spaces for writing clubs. See the [Sacramento County Annual Literacy Report Card for 2019-2020](#) – published July 2021.

Below is a summary of how some of our local programs in the Promise Zone currently provide literacy opportunities.

1. **916 Ink** has two core programs: "Find Your Voice" creative writing workshops and "Read On!" literacy tutoring. "The Find Your Voice" is a semester-length, school site-based program for students in grades 3-12. At program completion, each student will have 3 or 5 pieces of poetry and prose in a professionally published anthology.

"Read On!" students, in grades 1-4, receive evidence-based one-to-one tutoring using Lightning Squad, an online reading/tutoring program. Student interventions include direct evidence-based instruction. Students are identified as reading below grade-level and referred by their classroom teacher, student support team, or site administration. The Foundation mails each participant a book after each month of participation.
2. **The Center** provides expanded learning programs that engage K- 12 grade students in grade-level reading activities at 85 schools across five school districts. Programs provide mentors and coaches to facilitate daily supports for students in high-risk areas during the traditional school year and summer.

The Center hosts the AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy program, which matches students in 1st-3rd grade with volunteer tutors/ mentors for tutoring during the school year. The program partners 35 volunteers with six school sites.

The Center's six-week Summer Matters program targets students who are performing below grade-level and families who need additional community support. During the 2021 the Center served 843 students with literacy, STEAM, Health and Wellness and Entrepreneurship activities.

3. **Sacramento Public Library:** There are five library branches in (or on the border of) the SPZ. Before COVID-19 the Library had grown its SRP to be the second largest library SRP in California by serving 30,000 kids. The 17,000 program finishers read five books over the summer, the necessary amount to stop their summer slide. Last year, the library served 14,000 kids.
4. **United Way California Capital Region** partners with BookNook to provide a virtual literacy tutoring program, STARS (Students and tutors achieving reading success). The program is currently in five elementary schools in the Robla School District and three affordable housing locations. UWCCR's goal is to offer a free literacy program that helps students build phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency skills. Tutors serve as mentors and improve the students' confidence and participation in all school subjects.

Transforming Non-School Places and Spaces into Learning-Rich Environments

LifeSTEPS is an affordable housing services provider that delivers after school and summertime reading programs in addition to other services. LifeSTEPS partner with the Library and has created sustainable literacy interventions. Additionally, Marisol village, a newly rebuilt community of mixed housing has planned digital access for all residents and a suite of literacy supports for children and parents.

LifeSTEPS has crafted an afterschool program and a signature SRP that is now offered to 120 affordable housing communities in California, 15 communities in the City of Sacramento, and 6 communities in the Zone. The mission of the After School Program (ASP) at LifeSTEPS is to assist children and youth to fully realize their potential by engaging them in fun educational activities in a nurturing environment. The program format is designed to support each young person to explore their creativity, improve academically and acquire essential social skills. Emphasis is placed on school readiness and digital access for all program participants.

During COVID-19, children and youth have been participating in ASPs through various indoor and outdoor learning activities, while receiving wellness education and healthy snacks. There is emotional and relational support provided, along with one-on-one tutoring and the promotion of diversity and inclusion.

An ASP coordinator provides a safe and fun learning environment where children and youth gain confidence and build on their natural talents to optimize life-long learning. There is a strong connection to parents to ensure there is consistent communication as their children and youth participate.

The LifeSTEPS 'Big Fun in the Sun' SRP is an annual initiative for youth who are enrolled in the (ASP). Emphasis is placed on eliminating the summer reading slide, through a fun and engaging curriculum that enhances the learning experience. The learning-rich environment is designed to include parents as essential partners in the healthy development and success of their child.

For the past 12 years, LifeSTEPS has emphasized the engagement of students by providing a fun and focused curriculum and a learning-rich environment using the iREAD curriculum platform. Through pre and post testing, LifeSTEPS has proven that its program prevents the summer reading slide (2020 and 2021 were not measurable years). In 2021 there were 125 'Big Fun in the Sun' programs offered throughout California with great attendance by children and youth ages 5-17. LifeSTEPS has documented its program for others to replicate.

(1) URBAN STRATEGIES

Urban Strategies was hired by SHRA to help with the relocation of the Marisol Housing Community. USI has a designated Education Specialist that focuses on youth activities and programs. Upon their return to Marisol,

residents will have a designated learning center with a computer lab, tutoring programs and space for students to learn and excel. Several literacy initiatives will be offered to Marisol residents.

Going forward, the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative will continue to find, hold up, learn from, and encourage replication and expansion of successful literacy programs.

DATA

The Sacramento County [Community Literacy Map](#) (Map) and resulting annual “report card” is led by the Foundation and designed to illustrate progress on key literacy indicators over time and using them to identify where literacy resources and interventions are needed most. The Map increases awareness and directs resources on behalf of children’s literacy in Sacramento County.

The absence of standardized testing in 2020 and 2021 caused the Foundation to rethink the report card. They asked literacy providers to give an update about their efforts during the pandemic. The updates were included in the report card and sent to 5000 constituents by mail and e-mail. Once standardized testing is resumed, the Map will be able to measure the impact of COVID-19 on reading rates.

Two additional layers are being added to the Map. The first new layer shows where Summer Reading Programs are happening while the second identifies affordable housing communities and the number of apartments in By adding this layer, we can approach affordable housing communities and their respective school sites with life and literacy support services targeting schools with the highest number of students living in affordable housing in the Promise Zone.

Using data from the Map, we funded City Year, an attendance focused literacy nonprofit in the Promise Zone, to statistically detail reading rates in the Promise Zone. Promise Zone schools with literacy interventions saw a 9.5% increase between 2017 – 2019 while schools without interventions improved by only 3.75%. Accelerated learning is on everyone’s educational agenda and data shows that literacy interventions accelerated reading rates by 2.5 times in the Promise Zone.

SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Promise Zone designation has helped us focus our attention on the highest need communities in Sacramento. As proven projects are developed, they can be easily communicated, and replicated. Long-term sustainability and success are achieved when implementation of a system or a program is simple, relevant, and fully funded. The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative includes proven programming for summer reading, out of school and after school support, and specific programming in discrete community places. The Foundation is a fundraising organization with a focus on literacy. It holds a 1.3-million-dollar endowment for children’s literacy and summer reading, in particular, and continues to grow its fundraising capacity.

Sacramento’s housing and literacy communities have created successful collective impact strategies. Sacramento was fast to join the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and early to engage the housing community. To date, our successes have been due to tenacity and the knowledge that reading is agency, reading is equity. This initiative is ten years in the making and in some ways, we are just getting going.

Please also provide name of the primary contact for the project. Name & title, organization, address, telephone and e-mail address. *(This person may be contacted to verify information.)*

*April Javist
Executive Director
Sacramento Literacy Foundation
2411 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 120
916-836-3540*

PART 6: Additional Community-Driven Efforts In-Progress (OPTIONAL)

What else in your community is gaining traction? We recognize and applaud the likelihood that there may be multiple community-driven efforts in play in your community. While only one effort can be submitted for consideration, if there are others you wish to highlight, we invite you to share them here.

Note: this is an optional question.

(500 word maximum)

Valley Vision, a civic leadership organization, manages the Capital Region Coalition for Digital Inclusion which advances comprehensive and collaborative strategies for digital inclusion. Valley Vision also manages the Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium which advances efforts to fill critical broadband infrastructure gaps and improve access in homes, schools, and businesses. Valley Vision is part of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Prosperity Strategy) that outlines a roadmap to inclusive economic development and identifies digital inclusion as a core strategy. Valley Vision advances workforce strategies to increase digital literacy and digital skills. Valley Vision led the School2Home Program, increasing technology access and digital literacy for children attending Leataata Floyd Elementary school and their families.

Valley Vision was funded by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in 2012 to manage the Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium (CCABC) in order to connect underserved households in Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, and Yuba counties. Due to Valley Vision's role with the Consortium, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) funded Valley Vision/CCABC to deliver a School2Home project in 2015 in partnership with [Leataata Floyd Elementary School](#). The goal of this project was to provide all students with a computing device, which also supported digital literacy training for parents and teachers. The program reaches all K-6 elementary grade levels, and serves students who are residents of Marina Vista, Alder Grove, and Land Park Woods public housing projects through a partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Valley Vision/CCABC are currently seeking funding to continue to scale this project.

Additionally, the CCABC plays a key role in the Capital Region Coalition for Digital Inclusion, (formerly known as the Sacramento Coalition for Digital Inclusion) and managed by Valley Vision, which provides information on rapidly shifting legislation, resources and programs to help Coalition partners serve their direct constituents. The Coalition is launching a digital inclusion portal for the region in February, which will provide a clear and direct path for individuals to connect with the broadband, digital literacy, and device resources they need.

City of Sacramento As a component of the City's public-private partnership with Verizon, free high-speed Wi-Fi access points have been installed at 27 parks throughout the City of Sacramento. The primary goal of the Wi-Fi

solution is to support the City's goals of digital equity and economic development. This solution will assist with bridging the digital divide by providing wireless access that some citizens may not have access to.

- There are five branches of the Sacramento Public Library in the Promise Zone. Free Wi-Fi mobile hotspots are available to eligible residents impacted by COVID-19 at four of those branches. City of Sacramento residents can check out a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot device from these four locations for six weeks.

The literacy community knows that digital access means access to reading.