

Summer Reading 2026 Grant Requirements and Application

Summer Reading Funding Opportunity

In the 2024-25 school year, only 42% of third graders that took the CAASPP were reading at grade-level in Sacramento County and 58% were not reading at grade-level. Your work to support children advancing their reading skills is critical. The literacy crisis in Sacramento will negatively impact this generation of children, their future and the future of our city.

Summer Reading, kindergarten readiness and school attendance remain the top three factors impacting a child's ability to read at grade-level. According to research, reading five age-appropriate books is what it takes to hold onto earned reading skills. Summer Reading programs are a great way to engage children during summer recess and prevent summer learning loss.

The summer of 2026 will be imperative to prevent further reading skill degradation. Summer reading programs serve a vital role in accelerating grade-level reading proficiency.

Sacramento Literacy Foundation Goals

1. Put culturally relevant high-quality books in the hands and homes of our poorest students.
2. Advocate for evidence-based reading instruction in K-3rd grade classrooms through curriculum, teacher training, and afterschool programs.
3. Support and fund summer reading in Sacramento County.

Grant Dollars Available

Funding for Sacramento Literacy Foundation's children's literacy efforts are provided primarily by its Children's Literacy Endowment. This funding will be granted out to local organizations for qualified activities.

What We Will Fund.

Project-specific grants for organizations that provide summer reading programs for children and youth, ages birth through 18, in Sacramento County. Service areas inside the Sacramento Promise Zone will be prioritized. Projects with structured literacy integration will be prioritized.

What We Will Not Fund

Funds may not be used to replace state or local funds for staff or school personnel, or for celebration supplies, food and refreshments.

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Eligibility

- To be eligible for funding, proposals must meet the following basic criteria:
Applicant agency must have 501(c)(3) status or operate under the fiscal sponsorship of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a public elementary school.
- Program must serve children in Sacramento County.
- Program must have measurable results.

An award-winning application will meet all eligibility requirements and:

- Discuss the community served by the program and demonstrate why this program is important within the community.
- Demonstrate how the organization works in collaboration with other community agencies or programs targeting children and youth literacy.
- Discuss how your program addresses the pillars of literacy: oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Show the reach/impact that the program has or has capacity to reach.
- Provide a program budget.

Requirements of a funded project:

1. Host a site visit by members of the Grants Committee.
2. Submit a report by October 2, 2026.

Timeline

February 3, 2026 – Summer Reading grant application period opens

April 3, 2026, 5:00PM – Grant application period closes

May 7, 2025 – Grant recipients are notified; Big Day of Giving

August 2026 – Schedule site visit with Foundation Grants Committee

October 2, 2026 – Grantee sends report on funded program to info@sacramentoliteracy.org

Submission Process

Completed grants are due April 3, 2026. Please e-mail us at info@sacramentoliteracy.org if you have any questions about the eligibility of your specific grant application.

Thank you for supporting reading literacy in our region and helping to ensure grade-level reading fluency for every child.

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Name of Organization (Lead Agency):			
Executive Director Name: Email: Phone:	Program Contact Name: Email: Phone:		
Organization's Mailing Address: Fax: Website URL:	<p>For collaborative applicants only, list additional partners who will share responsibility for implementation of these grant dollars:</p> Organization: Point of Contact: Email: Phone: Organization: Point of Contact: Email: Phone:		
Proposed Project/Activity Title:			
Ages Served: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> High School	Type of Project/Activity: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing	Amount Requested: \$ _____	Number of unduplicated clients to be served:

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A complete proposal for funding will answer these questions within these word limits:

- **What project/activity are you doing? – 200- 500 words**
- **Who will participate? – 200 words**
- **How do you collaborate with others in the literacy community? – 200 words**
- **When and where will project/activity occur? – 100 words**
- **This funding will cover what costs? – 100 words**
- **How do you know it improves reading/writing skills of young people? – 200 words**

Please include a program budget with your proposal and, if applicable, verification of 501c(3) status (or fiscal sponsorship) and board of directors list. Deadline is April 4, 2025. E-mail your application or questions to info@sacramentoliteracy.org.

The information provided in this proposal is accurate and complete. I am responsible for the implementation of activities proposed in this funding request, and am a key point of contact for questions about this proposal:

Signature

Printed Name