

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

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|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Legal Name: Literacy San Antonio, Inc. (dba SAREADS & Design) | | Federal Tax ID#: 27-1393015 | |
| Address: P.O. Box 460176 | City: San Antonio | State: TX | Zip Code: 78246 |
| Website: www.sareads.org | | Fax: (210) 957-8790 | |

Head Of Organization

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| Name: Pamela Toman | Title: Co-Founder & Executive Director |
| E-Mail Address: pamela@literacysanantonio.com | Phone: (210) 957-8790 |

Application Contact

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| Name: Pamela Toman | Title: Co-Founder & Executive Director | E-Mail Address: pamela@literacysanantonio.com | Phone: 210-957-8790 |
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REPORT INFORMATION

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| Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle | Report Date: 08/03/2020 12:00 am |
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

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| Awarded Amount: 40,000 | Date: 10/28/2019 |
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Objective 1 Reading Instruction: To increase reading achievement to grade level benchmarks for 70% of Kindergarten through 2nd grade children across eleven elementary schools in Southwest ISD. Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, end-of-year benchmark testing was cancelled and we were not able to measure outcomes as planned.

SAReads(R) also improved the way thousands of children are taught to read in eleven schools. Hundreds of teachers are trained by SAReads(R) in the methods proven to be most effective for teaching children to read. This is critical in light of the learning loss due to school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional accomplishments during the 2019-2020 year include:

- 289 K-4 grade children received individual tutoring in reading;
- 131 PK - 8th grade teachers participated in SAReads(R) science of teaching reading training

Objective 2 Books: To distribute 50,000 books to children, classrooms and nonprofits. SAReads(R) distributed 25,486 books before the book bank was closed on March 16 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

To say the world has changed since we submitted our original proposal would be an understatement. The education world changed completely: schools and universities closed in March. Unprepared students and parents were forced into online / remote learning, thereby exacerbating the knowledge and learning gap between low income and more affluent students. Texas Education Agency (TEA) is addressing inequities in education by mandating all K-3 teachers in Texas learn the science of teaching reading. TEA recognized SAREads(R) as an elite Top 5 Authorized Texas Reading Academy Provider.

SAREads(R) was increasing reading achievement to grade level benchmarks for 2,500 K-2 children across eleven elementary schools when schools closed in March. We were not able to obtain student reading data at the end of school due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we are confident the teachers we trained are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to implement evidence-based literacy instruction, assess student progress, and use data to inform instruction so children develop a strong foundation in reading and writing.

4: What needs were addressed?

The "science of teaching reading" will improve instruction, allowing more children to become skilled readers. Much has been learned about how children learn to read and the factors that contribute to low literacy. The potential to use research findings to improve literacy outcomes is substantial but remains largely unrealized. The lack of improvement in literacy levels, especially among children who face other challenges such as poverty, has led to new pressure to incorporate the "science of reading" in curricula, instructional practices, and teacher education. SAREads(R) addresses the need to incorporate the science of reading for teachers and schools serving low income children.

The most fundamental responsibility of schools is teaching students to read. The future success of all students hinges upon their ability to become proficient readers. Recent scientific studies help us understand how literacy develops, why some children have difficulty, and what constitutes best instructional practice. SAREads(R) puts children first by providing extra training and support to teachers to ensure success for their students. SAREads(R) focuses on the science of reading because data show the majority low income children of color are not being taught to read and reading failure can be prevented. It is possible to teach most students how to read if we start early and follow the significant body of research showing which instructional practices are most effective. Children living in poverty, children of color, and children who are eligible for remedial services can become competent readers.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

SAREads(R) evaluates student reading outcomes using IStation and STAAR data. SAREads(R) evaluates and reports the same data school administrators and the State of Texas use to assess student success. We were not able to measure student reading achievement in spring 2020 due to Covid-19.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

SAREads(R) is a multiyear and multi method project to increase the number of children reading on grade level. As a TEA Authorized Reading Academy, SAREads(R) is expanding services to additional school districts and public charters. SAREads(R) is able to recover a portion of our costs for services from our partner school districts. We provide additional services that are critical for ensuring student reading success with funds donated by the community. SAREads(R) must advocate for system change in public schools so all children can learn to read. SAREads(R) depends on support from The Najim Charitable Foundation to provide support to empower campus literacy teams to master and sustain the science of teaching reading so all children achieve high reading levels.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

SAReads(R) is extremely grateful to The Najim Charitable Foundation for supporting our work in early childhood education. SAReads(R) advocates for equity in education by driving system change in reading instruction in the classrooms of our most vulnerable children. Ineffective reading instruction is a form of systemic racism that disproportionately impacts low income children of color. In Texas, only 35% of low income Hispanic children and 28% of low income African American children meet the grade level standard by 3rd grade. Reading is not an easy skill to acquire. Most children require explicit instruction and learning to read takes years. How children are taught affects whether or not they become readers. A child's failure to read has rapidly cascading effects on learning other subjects, and places him or her at high risk of falling out of the educational system. SAReads(R) is proud to be a top rated Authorized Texas Reading Academy Provider. The mission of the Texas Reading Academies is to equip educators with the knowledge and skills needed to implement evidence-based literacy instruction, assess student progress, and use data to inform instruction so that all Texas children develop a strong foundation in reading and writing.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

| Line Item Description | Total Project Funds Allocation | Najim Requested Funds | Project Funds Actual | Najim Funds Allocation |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SAReads Book Bank | \$30,000 | \$5,000 | \$26,106 | \$1,266 |
| Tutoring Program | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$457 | \$457 |
| Supplies and Materials | \$4,550 | \$1,000 | \$1,048 | \$1,048 |
| IT, Software and Maintenance | \$7,100 | \$4,000 | \$1,060 | \$1,060 |
| Printing and Advertising | \$12,500 | \$6,000 | \$4,603 | \$4,603 |
| Salaries and Professional Fees | \$400,000 | \$18,000 | \$239,466 | \$21,566 |
| Children's Book Packages | \$20,000 | \$6,000 | \$19,265 | \$6,000 |
| Travel and Mileage | \$7,500 | \$4,000 | \$12,757 | \$4,000 |
| TOTAL: | \$487,650 | \$50,000 | \$304,762 | \$40,000 |

Signature
Pamela R. Toman