

REPORT 2020 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: San Antonio Youth Literacy		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2325098	
Address: 2527 Rim Oak	City: San Antonio	State: Texas	Zip Code: 78232
Website: www.sayl.org		Fax: (210) 422-9708	
Head Of Organization			
Name: Dr. Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.		Title: Executive Director	
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Application Contact			
Name: Deborah L. Valdez	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: deborah.valdez@sayl.org	Phone: (210) 422-9708
REPORT INFORMATION			
Report Funding Cycle: 2020 April Cycle		Report Date: 02/09/2021 12:00 am	
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.			
Awarded Amount: 40,000		Date: 04/22/2020	
2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.			
<p>In March of 2020 when our partner districts shuttered their doors, The Reading Buddy Program had met or exceeded many of our planned objectives: increasing our participant and volunteer numbers; completing our 1-3 grade level pilot, with early data indicating favorable reviews from both our partner schools and volunteers, confirming that additional assistance during these formative grades enhanced the students' improvement in their academic skills as well as their behavior and social skills; and finally building our presence in new partner districts, Edgewood and Harlandale. However, when the Covid-19 pandemic stay home order went into effect our traditional program delivery was no longer possible. It became necessary to immediately cease business and due to a lack of the ability to deliver services and a lack reserve funds, we were forced to severely cut staff. Fast forward to the fall of 2020. We have developed a synchronous virtual Reading Buddy program that supports all of the best practices of our traditional program. This program employs the individual partner teacher's virtual platform to create one-on-one 30-minute weekly sessions between the students they have been placed on a priority list, with a Reading Buddy. SAYL has been able to make extraordinary adjustments to our program's mode of delivery in a relatively short period of time and we believe that the virtual Reading Buddy program will facilitate the increase of the number of students served through offering another option to our volunteers to be involved.</p>			
3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.			

When nearing the end of the 2019 - 2020 school year, we were very optimistic about the expansion of the Reading Buddy Program into Edgewood and Harlandale districts, helping over 1200 students through the dedication of nearly 650 volunteers, with student data demonstrating that our students had gained at least 4 reading levels on average, and at 85% of our 2nd graders passing on to the 3rd grade. In the Fall, it was impossible to start a new school year with what we knew worked. In our original proposal, we had intended to continue our expansion through our traditional in person program. We had pivoted to accommodate the restrictions of the pandemic and have spent the year developing and piloting a virtual delivery system that we fully intend to use side-by-side with our traditional program in the Fall of 2021.

4: What needs were addressed?

We made huge strides advancing the development of our virtual Reading Buddy Program and intend to continue its development in the upcoming months. In addition, we will need to resume our traditional program along side and with the full cooperation of our partner districts. It is our intent that with the resuming of full in school attendance by our partner districts, we will once again be able to fully offer our much sought after, successful Reading Buddy Program. In addition, we will be gathering data on our virtual synchronous program.

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

Although we have not yet been able to do a complete evaluation of our virtual Reading Buddy Program, student participants were identified for inclusion in the program based on reading score levels as determined by the results of routinely administered assessment tests provided by partner school districts at the beginning of the school year. Students' progress is measured using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System or the Measures of Academic Progress Test (MAP) to determine each student's instructional and independent reading level. These scores are used to create our target student priority list. In addition to providing a current reading level, this assessment provides an in-depth analysis of each student's reading deficiencies, including issues with comprehension, fluency, and sight word retention. In addition, given at the beginning, mid-term and end of year, these assessments provide growth data for each student. Data generated provided to the City of San Antonio includes the percentage of growth in reading levels, percentage passing to third grade, and percentage passing the STAAR test in third grade.

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

The SAYL Reading Buddy Program is an incredibly valuable asset to the schools it currently serves, especially in light of the challenges students are facing with the COVID - 19 pandemic and shuttering of schools. We are currently offering our virtual pilot program in SAISD elementary schools for students in grades 1-3 and will resume full services in the Fall 2021 to all our partner school districts. Although the pandemic has been devastating in many ways, it has required SAYL to reassess how we deliver and manage our services. Through the use of technology, we have developed online forms allowing for the reduction of personnel hours needed for such tasks, thus reducing the cost of the Reading Buddy Program. As with most nonprofits in the community that rely heavily on live events for fund raising, funding sustainability has been severely impacted by the quarantine. We have adjusted by offering virtual fundraising events and are planning our CPS Energy sponsored golf tournament in Fall 2021. We continue to seek grant opportunities and have welcomed some new grantees and contributions in 2020 from those who share in the belief that San Antonio's future is dependent on the educational levels of today's youth.

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

We are very grateful to Mr. Najim and the The Najim Charitable Foundation for the continued belief in and support of our Reading Buddy Program. The monies granted through this grant cycle helped to keep our organization operating during these unprecedented times. We are working diligently to resume our mission to help the children of San Antonio to "learn to read so they may read to learn. " Thank you.

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
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Program Supplies	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$160	\$160
Marketing	\$1,600	\$1,500	\$1500	\$1500
Tutor Meetings/Recognitions	\$300	\$300	\$5278	\$300
Travel/Mileage	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cell Phones/Internet	\$9,657	\$8,500	\$7737	\$7737
Rent/Utilities	\$15,266	\$12,500	\$1256	\$1256
Printing	\$8,850	\$6,500	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payroll	\$190,581	\$22,700	\$41535	\$22700
Misc.	\$0	\$0	\$116760	\$6347
TOTAL:	\$241,254	\$65,000	\$174,226	\$40,000

Signature

Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.