

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: Leaders Readers Network (The)	Federal Tax ID#: 36-4753948	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 A (3)	
Address: 327 Lake Ridge Rd	City: Canyon	State: TX	Zip Code: 79015
Website: https://theleadersreadersnetwork.org/	Fax: (806) 759-5401	United Way Funded: No	
Fiscal Year: July 01 to June 30			
Head Of Organization			
Name: Chris McGilvery		Title: Founder, CEO	
E-Mail Address: chris@leadersreadersnetwork.org		Phone: (806) 759-5401	
Application Contact			
Name: Chris McGilvery	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: christydarleywallace@gmail.com	Phone: (843) 602-6675
Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined? No			
Grant Amount Requested \$: \$10,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$52,860	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$47,400	
Mission Statement: Cultivate a national network of leaders who provide books, supplies and projects to promote early literacy at underfunded schools.			
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Program / Project Title: Educators Growing Leaders and Readers			
PROJECT TIMELINE			
Start Date 04/01/2021		End Date 12/31/2021	
Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities: Education			
Education Priorities: Elementary to High School			
Program / Project Description:			

Research continues to demonstrate literacy plays an important role in student success. Children and adolescents need consistent access to diverse books at school and home. Approximately 60% of all students in Texas Public Schools are considered economically disadvantaged. Providing diverse children books through our Leadership and Literacy projects will help grow skilled readers, connect students with text reflective of who they are, and close the reading gap which has widened during the pandemic.

In addition, teacher retention and recruitment of a diverse teacher workforce is important. According to the Texas Education Agency's data for the 2017-18 school year, only 10 percent of the district's teachers identify as black or African American, and 27 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino. Yet, 22.5 percent of students identify as black or African American, and 69.6 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino. Through our Teacher Ambassador project, we will work with a diverse and dedicated group of teachers to empower and support them to be the best educator leaders they can be for students and our community.

The project's objectives are to improve children's literacy rates, motivation and comprehension skills, and improve teacher self-care and recognition through wellness packages and service projects. Through our efforts to combine leadership and literacy projects to support teacher and student growth, we are able to provide transformational experiences for classrooms and school communities. Teachers and students will work together to discover their potential and become contributing members of our communities while developing their love for learning and reading. This project supports the need for helping provide books to low-income children and families, teacher wellness and improving literacy skills.

The schools and classrooms involved will develop leadership skills, see firsthand the importance of literacy and, hopefully, move forward as an advocate for literacy and equality in education. Our project focuses on collaborating with teachers and their classrooms to support and develop specific leadership skills (character, respect and responsibility) while sharing a love of reading. Middle school campus classrooms will work together to adopt feeder elementary campuses to provide brand new books for the end of the school year, summer and fall terms. Our unique approach provides Black, brown, and low-income students access to leadership and literacy projects.

Throughout the school year teachers will participate in our service projects during the National Day of Service (9/11, MLK Day, and Global Day of Service). Each National Day of Service, we will mobilize over 1,000 youth volunteers to support literacy and service on their campus and local Title 1 Schools. Service projects include promoting gratitude, literacy, character traits, and leadership skills on Title 1 campuses.

As educators in San Antonio grapple with the demands of teaching during a pandemic, this project has evolved to include wellness as a key part of taking care of our educator community. Throughout the school year, we will provide wellness packages that go along with the support teachers receive through our book projects and service projects. The following is the theme for each wellness and care package (Peace and Wellness, Health and Wellness, Back to School Survival Pack, Holiday Themed Gifts).

From 2014 to date, we partnered with Northside ISD, Edgewood ISD, Harlandale ISD, and Judson ISD to support students and teachers. We provided over 11,000 students with backpacks filled with school supplies. In addition, we have partnered with the following schools to participate in our leadership and literacy projects:

Boone Murray Elementary School (Northside ISD)

Rawlinson Middle School (Northside ISD)

Glen Oaks Elementary (Northside ISD)

Pat Neff Middle School (Northside ISD)

Dr. Hector Garcia Middle School (Northside ISD)

VM Adams Elementary (Harlandale ISD)

Schulze Elementary (Harlandale ISD)

Las Palmas Elementary (Edgewood ISD)

Rhodes Middle School (Edgewood ISD)

In a short period of time, teachers and students in San Antonio, Texas and surrounding communities have experienced the transformational projects in their classrooms and schools. As we continue to further our mission in San Antonio, we plan to expand our Teacher Ambassador Project to support teachers and students at our four middle schools and 4 elementary schools where we have teacher ambassadors.

We will expand our proven and innovative Teacher Ambassador project in San Antonio, Texas by engaging a diverse team of teachers at Title 1 schools we partner with to participate in projects and provide new books to students and classrooms in need. The teachers will voluntarily apply to be a Teacher Ambassador and will lead and mentor students and fellow teachers to host projects at their school. They will participate in literacy-forward activities meant to positively impact reading engagement, motivation and comprehension skills.

Additionally and importantly, we will provide support to the teachers who are working under unprecedented circumstances by developing content for professional development sessions, provide mentorship to cultivate their leadership skills, and reward their efforts with wellness boxes periodically. We believe in our teachers and want to make sure they feel appreciated for their efforts.

Our projects are important to San Antonio teachers and students because the pandemic has impacted our community and shifted the way we must engage our students. As The Najim Foundation distributes funds for charitable projects, we know that your support will help improve teacher and student lives, school morale, increase volunteerism rates, and improve literacy rates. Together, we will be able to enrich the quality of life that our teachers and students need during this historic school year.

Evaluation Plan:

The project's objectives are to improve children's literacy rates, motivation and comprehension skills, and improve teacher wellness and recognition through wellness packages and service projects. 50% of teachers and classrooms at each campus will participate in Leadership and Literacy Projects to help 70% of students at each elementary feeder campus to improve literacy skills. Surveys from teachers will be completed pre and post service projects to document youth leadership growth. In addition, teachers will share anecdotes of students' growth through service projects and reading skills. We will work with school leaders to gather reading data (formative and summative reading assessments) pre and post Leadership and Literacy projects. Upon completion of the project a video will be created to show the data through storytelling.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Our board of directors will continue to fundraise and create an annual fundraising event to help further our mission. Our Executive Director, Teacher Ambassador Coordinator, and Grants team will research and apply for grants that align to our mission to grow our Teacher Ambassador project. We will create partnerships with businesses for sponsorship. In addition, we will work with Texas based publishers and national publishers to provide brand new books for Title 1 Schools through book sponsorships. Additionally, as part of the project, Teacher Ambassadors and their students will conduct local fundraising activities to add support to the project. Through the support of Najim Foundation, we will be able to expand and sustain our project with a Teacher Ambassador Coordinator to help support project implementation, fundraising, and growth to sustain our project through the next 3 years.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
3,595	1,800

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age		B. Population Served Ethnicity	
Infants (0-5)	20%	African American	3%
Children (6-13)	70%	Asian American	2%
Young Adults (14-18)	10%	Caucasian	11%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	65%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	19%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District5, District6, District7, District8

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Books	\$15,000	\$6,000
Teacher Wellness	\$21,600	\$1,500
Book marks, labels, stickers	\$2,250	\$1,500
Curriculum and Professional Development	\$5,510	\$1,000
Marketing	\$1,000	\$0
Meals	\$1,000	\$0
Postage and Delivery	\$1,900	\$0
Printing and copying	\$150	\$0
Misc Supplies	\$1,450	\$0
Administrative Support	\$3,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$52,860	\$10,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Mays Family Foundation	\$25,000
Greehey Family Foundation	\$5,000
The Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$40,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
First Book	\$10,000
Facebook fundraisers	\$3,000
IECA Foundation	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$15,500

Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Pantex	\$10,000
Women in Philanthropy	\$10,000
Amarillo Area Foundation	\$25,000
Bivins Family Foundation	\$8,500
TOTAL:	\$53,500

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Palace Coffee Co	\$2,000
First Book	\$30,000
The Pollination Project	\$5,000
IECA Foundation	\$2,500
Bivins Family Foundation	\$8,500
Dr. Karl Beutner and Mrs. Mary Beutner Philanthropic Trust	\$5,000
Frieda c Fox Family foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$63,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?
100%

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
The minimum size of the Board of Directors shall be three (3) and no more than 7 members. The board roles may include Executive Director, Board Chair, Program Chair, Governance Chair, Finance Chair and Grants Chair.

The board of directors and advisors provide support, oversight, fundraising strategy, and ensure founder and leadership team can be success in their roles.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Vicki DeWille, Board Chair	AT&T
Dr. Donna Gee, Secretary	Angelo State University
Brittney Hill, Programs Chair	L3 Technologies
Dr. Mary Liz Brooks, Marketing and Grants Chair	West Texas A&M University
Andrew Brown, Treasurer	Computer Technology
Sarah Montante, Advisory Council	Facebook
Joseph Vasile, Advisory Council	Cisco Technologies
Dr. Marisa Cristosomo, Advisory Council	West Texas A&M University
Dr. Robert King, Advisory Council	West Texas A&M University

Kaleb West, Advisory Council	Pondaseta Brewing Company
Melodie Graves, Advisory Council	Amarillo College
Signature Chris McGilvery	