

# FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
<b>Legal Name:</b> San Antonio Youth Literacy	<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-2325098	<b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b> 509 (a)(1)	
<b>Address:</b> 2527 Rim Oak	<b>City:</b> San Antonio	<b>State:</b> Texas	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78232
<b>Website:</b> www.sayl.org	<b>Fax:</b> (210) 422-9708	<b>United Way Funded:</b> No	
<b>Fiscal Year:</b> July 01 to June 30			
Head Of Organization			
<b>Name:</b> Dr. Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.		<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> deborah.valdez@sayl.org		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 422-9708	
Application Contact			
<b>Name:</b> Deborah L. Valdez	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> deborah.valdez@sayl.org	<b>Phone:</b> (210) 422-9708
Previous Najim Funding			
Year	Funding \$		
2007	\$10,000		
2008	\$15,000		
2011	\$15,000		
2012	\$15,000		
2013	\$10,000		
2014	\$15,000		
2015	\$15,000		
2016	\$20,000		
2017	\$30,000		
2018	\$50,000		
2019	\$45,000		
2020	\$40,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>		
<b>Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined?</b> No			
Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:	
\$45,000	\$112,095	\$262,308	

**Mission Statement:**

To provide one-on-one support to children in San Antonio by empowering them with the skills needed to "read to learn" while fostering self-confidence and an enjoyment of reading.

**PROJECT INFORMATION****Program / Project Title:**

Reading Buddy (Traditional and Virtual)

**PROJECT TIMELINE****Start Date**

07/01/2021

**End Date**

06/30/2022

**Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:**

Education

**Education Priorities:**

Elementary to High School

**Program / Project Description:**

Established in 1984, San Antonio Youth Literacy's (SAYL) early programming addressed the illiteracy rate of young people coming into the workforce. Since 1999 SAYL's efforts have been directed toward younger children and it was at this time that SAYL's Reading Buddy Program was instituted. In 2003, SAYL consulted with reading specialist, Suzanne Rea, to revise the program curriculum. According to results of a meta-analysis released by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (2015), programs similar to the Reading Buddy Program are a cost-effective way to help struggling readers. Although students with special needs or students who are not conversationally fluent in English probably need additional one-on-one attention, those students whose reading level deficiencies are similar to our program's parameters (students falling in the 25th through 40th percentile on standardized reading assessments and reading at between 1 - 1.5 grade level below) show a measurable improvement. SAYL is currently using one of two assessment tools (the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment and the Measures of Academic Progress Test-MAP) being used in the majority of our partner school districts. Through these assessments, a more accurate leveled literacy rating provides the instructional and independent reading levels of students and the documenting of each student's progress through one-on-one formative and summative assessments. The traditionally delivered Reading Buddy Program utilizes trained reading/mentor volunteers, recruited from corporate, faith-based, higher education institution communities, and the community at large. Prior to March of 2020, our traditional in person approach of program delivery served approximately 650 volunteer tutors/mentors and 1,200 students and met one-on-one in a non-threatening environment, away from the general school population (usually the school library) for 30 minutes weekly, for an average of 20 sessions during the academic year. The curriculum utilized by the volunteers includes sight word recognition, reading together, reading by student, and comprehension assessment activities. This instructional time allows the student the opportunity to receive personalized attention and instructional reinforcement, supporting them in their efforts to improve their reading skills (decoding, comprehension, fluency and word recognition), while enhancing self-esteem and motivation, and fostering an enjoyment of reading. By working with the Reading Buddy volunteer at a controlled learning pace, improved reading skills results in increased confidence, resulting in a positive impact on behavior, thereby increasing positive socialization skills and emotional attitudes of the students being tutored/mentored. When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, schools were shuttered. Traditional program delivery was no longer possible. Because of these circumstances, we have developed a synchronis 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. Although some might question whether or not 30 minutes, once a week is beneficial, those participating in the program have consistently shown an average improvement of 4.45 reading test score levels as compared to students with similar reading difficulties who, on average, improved by 3 reading test score levels. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, SAYL had more than doubled the number of students participating in the Reading Buddy Program. Although we have been able to make extraordinary adjustments to our program mode of delivery in a relatively short period of time, we now must rely on our partner school districts to work through the issue of the decline in student attendance. We believe that the virtual Reading Buddy program will help shepherd students back to a higher participation level. As with all non-profits serving the community, SAYL depends heavily on in-person fundraising events, because of this, SAYL has taken a financial hit. Personnel adjustments and streamlining of program delivery has helped however, moving forward, it becomes that much more important to secure funding to resume program growth throughout San Antonio while maintaining program integrity. Although funding is at an historically challenging low level for all non-profits, SAYL's partnerships with other entities that share the same vision, i.e. SA2020, the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services, Faith-Based Initiatives and Seniors Program, corporate partners such as CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System, Valero, NuStar and others, assists in getting the message to the community of the ongoing need for The Reading Buddy program. Because of the initial success of our 1st - 3rd grade pilot conducted during the 2019 - 2020 school year (prior to quarantine,) indicating that additional assistance during these formative grades better enhanced the students' improvement in their academic skills as well as their behavior and social skills, our virtual program is currently serving students in these grades. With the development of our virtual program, we see an opportunity to increase the number of Reading Buddies exponentially by offering our volunteers the option of at home tutoring/mentoring. As a result, we will be able to better serve our more remote underserved campuses. In order to return to our pre- Covid-19 level of delivery and resume program growth, SAYL is seeking funds for recovery and expansion of our virtual and traditional 1st through 3rd grade Reading

Buddy Program. The current budget of the organization will need to be amended throughout the process of recovery to reflect the needs of a reestablished traditional program as well as the growth of the virtual program.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Program participants are 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. SAYL employs this data to create personalized tutoring sessions aimed at improving the identified reading deficiencies. Data 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.

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

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. 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.

**Children Impacted:**

<b>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</b>	<b>How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</b>
1,500	1,500

**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%.**

<b>A. Population Served Age</b>		<b>B. Population Served Ethnicity</b>	
Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	6%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	3%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	Hispanic/Latino	90%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10

**Line item Budget:**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Najim Funds Allocation</b>
Program Supplies	\$4,500	\$4,500
Marketing	\$1,600	\$1,550

Internet/Cell Phones	\$2,700	\$2,500
Printing	\$6,000	\$3,500
Travel/Mileage	\$6,000	\$5,000
Payroll	\$91,295	\$27,950
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$112,095</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

**OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES**

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

**PROJECT - PENDING**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Texas Cavaliers	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

**PROJECT - COMMITTED**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
City of San Antonio	\$44,308
Enterprise Holdings	\$8,000
Education Forum	\$5,000
Whitacre Foundation	\$5,425
Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$65,233</b>

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

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Mays Family Foundation	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Lou/Nancy Scantland	\$11,000
Liftfund	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

**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?**

Our board of directors is comprised of 18 members. Each board member is expected to attend monthly board meetings as well as participate in standing and ad hoc committee meetings, some of which include, Communications, Governance, Finance, and Fundraising, along with a yearly staff retreat and strategic planning sessions. Most meetings take approximately 1.5 hours. Board members are invited to join the board after being strategically vetted to provide the best fit for their abilities to connect and promote SAYL throughout the community. They are expected to participate in all major fundraising events and to make a personal financial commitment to the organization. A majority of our board members currently participate as Reading Buddies, giving them a better understanding of the program and its content, along with the benefits and impact of mentoring, which assists them in their understanding and expertise when describing the program components to the community.

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Malinda Gaul, Chair	Gaul and Dumont Law Firm
Fred Bonewell, Incoming Chair	CPS Energy
Cesar Garcia, Secretary	Tx Health & Human Services
Christine Baumann, Treasurer	Ernst & Young LLP
Dave Gannon, Past Chair	Master Metrologis, Retired, Northside ISD Bond Committee
Markham P. Benn	IBC Bank
Sarah Stone	Twig Book Store
Stephen M. Flores	Jefferson Bank
Claire Garza	Valero Energy Corporation
Greg Houston	Marmon Mok
Steve Mahoney	Business Owner
Donna McIlveen	Aventine Hill Partners, Inc
Shellie Reyes	Clause Witz Law
Lilia Gibson	Linebarger Law Firm
Richard W. Shaw	Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
Edward Wayne Smith	CoStar Group
Carmen Vazquez-Gonzalez	Rocar Consulting, Inc

**Signature**

Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.