

# 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>	
<b>Address:</b> 1616 E. Commerce, Building 2	<b>City:</b> San Antonio	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78205
<b>Website:</b> www.sayl.org	<b>Fax:</b> (210) 299-1533	<b>United Way Funded:</b> No	

### 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) 299-1533

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Patricia Medina	<b>Title:</b> Development Director	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> pat.medina@sayl.org	<b>Phone:</b> (210) 299-1533
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### Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2007	\$10,000
2008	\$15,000
2011	\$15,000
2012	\$15,000
2013	\$15,000
2014	\$15,000
2015	\$15,000
2016	\$20,000
2017	\$30,000
2018	\$142,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$292,350</b>

**Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**

No

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b>	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b>	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b>
\$65,000	\$253,124	\$383,060

### Mission Statement:

SAYL's mission is to provide individualized 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

<b>Program / Project Title:</b>	
SAYL Reading Buddy Program	
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE</b>	
<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
07/01/2019	06/30/2020
<b>Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:</b>	
Education	
<b>Education Priorities:</b>	
Elementary to High School	
<b>Program / Project Description:</b>	

San Antonio Youth Literacy's (SAYL) vision is that every child in South Texas enter third grade reading on grade level. The Reading Buddy program continues to move the needle ever closer to our vision by providing a proven vehicle through which 2nd grade students reading below grade level can realize success. In addition, the San Antonio community is provided an opportunity to become a part of the solution for increased child literacy through participating as a Reading Buddy. Research from Harvard Graduate School of Education (2018) indicates that although reading is essential for learning, students across the United States are completing elementary school with inadequate reading abilities, which often follow them throughout their academic careers. A student who fails to read in first grade has a 90 percent probability of reading poorly in fourth grade and a 75 percent probability of reading poorly in high school, with implications for limited success later in life. According to research comprised by the 3rd Grade Reading Success Matters Campaign, proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn, and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth-grade curriculum. Most students who fail to reach this critical milestone falter in the later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma. More than four out of every five low-income students miss this critical milestone. Statistics supplied by TEA, Educational Testing Service indicates that the 2018 STAAR 3rd grade test results indicate 28% of the total tested failed the reading portion of the test. The rate was an even higher 36% for those from economically disadvantaged communities. SAYL's Reading Buddy Program addresses the issue of grade level reading by offering its program to 2nd graders in Title 1 elementary schools. Title 1 is a designation by the federal government given to schools where at least 40% of the school's students are from low-income families and who qualify under the United States Census's definition of low-income. The schools currently participating in the program exceed this designation, with a poverty rating of 50-80% of their households in the low-income category. Our program provides services across the city with primary emphasis on target schools in historically low-performing areas of the community. Of these schools, the majority are located in the San Antonio Independent School District with 91% of the students coming from low-income families who qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision, a provision from the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 that allows schools with high poverty rate to provide free breakfast/lunch to all children. Two of the newest program growth areas are in Harlandale and Edgewood Independent School Districts, both of which have a 90+ percentage of households classified as economically disadvantaged. Additional growth into both districts will be dependent on securing adequate funding for expansion. According to the American Journal of Community Psychology, (April 2002) students from at-risk backgrounds appear most likely to benefit from participation in tutoring/mentoring programs. The Reading Buddy program utilizes trained reading/mentor volunteers, recruited from corporate, faith-based, higher education institution communities, and the community at large, who meet 30 minutes weekly with 2 students matched for the entire year. This instructional time allows the student the opportunity to receive personalized attention and instructional reinforcement and supports them in their efforts to improve their reading skills (decoding, comprehension, fluency and word recognition,) enhance their self-esteem and motivation, and foster an enjoyment of reading. By working with the Reading Buddy at a controlled learning pace, improved reading skills result in improved confidence resulting in a positive impact on behavior thereby increasing positive socialization skills and emotional attitudes of the students being tutored/mentored. The Reading Buddy Program is structured to maximize the inclusion of all its stakeholders. One of the intended consequences of the Reading Buddy Program is that of creating an opportunity for individuals across the city of San Antonio to become a part of the solution for children's literacy. The children are the biggest benefactors and they are directly involved in the execution of the program. Children self-select the books used in the tutoring sessions. Reading Buddy volunteers give their input through session notes describing the students' participation, behavior, progress, and challenges with the reading material. These notes are reviewed by program managers on a monthly basis and adjustments can be made accordingly. Classroom teachers maintain an ongoing dialogue with the SAYL program manager assigned to their campus concerning the progress of their students. Surveys are administered to children, volunteers, and teachers to elicit feedback used in shaping the program as well. The SAYL's Reading Buddy program is recognized throughout the community and, based on the accomplishments of the program, requests for the program continue to increase each year. SAYL serves as a member of a coalition of education and business leaders, community volunteers and elected officials as a stakeholder in the City of San Antonio's SA2020 initiative on education with emphasis on third grade reading and is serving as the recognized literacy organization of the City of San Antonio for the faith-based initiative formed in 2018. In addition, SAYL was recently chosen to head an effort to involve seniors from city senior centers as Reading

Buddies to encourage them to become part of the solution of children's literacy.

**Evaluation Plan:**

SAYL has utilized assessments routinely administered by partner school districts for its early elementary reading program since 2003. Currently each students' progress is measured using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System administered by school personnel 3 times a year, to determine each student's instructional reading level. Each participant is identified for inclusion in the program based on their beginning of year reading score level. These scores are then used by the 2nd grade teachers to create a target student priority list. This assessment also provides an in-depth analysis of each student's reading deficiencies to include issues with comprehension, fluency and sight word retention. SAYL employs this data to create personalized tutoring sessions aimed at improving the identified reading deficiencies. Additionally, the SAYL staff monitors the program on an ongoing basis through site visits and reviewing and analyzing statistical information.

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

Ongoing funding sustainability is currently accomplished through our annual special event luncheon and golf tournament, grant requests, and the Big Give fund drive and contributions from organizations and individuals who share in the belief that San Antonio's future is dependent on the educational success of its youth.

**Children Impacted:**

**How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?**

1,200

**How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?**

0

**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)	0%	African American	7%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	1%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	Hispanic/Latino	92%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**Line item Budget:**

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Program Supplies	\$11,400	\$0
Marketing	\$3,420	\$0
Tutor Meetings/Recognitions	\$1,585	\$0
Travel/Mileage	\$6,343	\$0
Cell Phones/Internet	\$9,144	\$0
Rent/Utilities	\$13,970	\$0
Printing	\$7,872	\$0
Payroll	\$199,053	\$0

Misc.	\$337	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$253,124</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.</b>		
<b>PROJECT - PENDING</b>		
<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	
Valero Energy Foundation	\$10,000	
Kleese Family Foundation	\$5,000	
United Way	\$50,000	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	
<b>PROJECT - COMMITTED</b>		
<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	
City of San Antonio	\$50,000	
CPS Energy	\$20,000	
Greehey Family Foundation	\$20,000	
Whitacre Family Foundation	\$20,000	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	
<b>Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.</b>		
<b>ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING</b>		
<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	
State Farm Foundation	\$7,500	
Big Give Campaign	\$12,000	
Mays Family Foudation	\$10,000	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$29,500</b>	
<b>ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED</b>		
<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	
Annual Golf Tournament	\$15,000	
Annual Luncheon	\$50,000	
Mission Trail Rotary	\$1,500	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$66,500</b>	
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>		
<b>What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?</b>		
100%		
<b>If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?</b>		
<b>How are board members expected to participate in your organization?</b>		

Each board member is expected to attend monthly board meetings (excluding November & December) as well as participate in standing and ad hoc committee meetings. Some of those ad hoc meetings include a yearly staff retreat and strategic planning sessions. Most meetings take approximately 1.5 hours. Board members are also expected to participate in all major fundraising events and to make a personal financial commitment to the organization. Additionally, board members are encouraged to participate as Reading Buddies in order to have a better grasp of the program and its content.

#### **LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Malinda Gaul/Chiar	Gaul and Dumont
Fred Bonewell, Vice Chair	CPS Energy
Cesar Garcia, Secretary	Law Offices of Cesar Garcia, PLLC
Christy Baumann, Treasurer	Ernst & Young, LLP
Dave Gannon, Past Board Chair	Master Metrologist, Retired
Markham P. Benn	IBC Bank
Cedric Fisher	Cedric D. Fisher & Company
Claire Garza	Valero Energy
Sara Goodson	AT&T
Greg Houston	Marmon Mok
Steve Mahoney	Business Owner
Donna McIlveen	Aventine Hill Partners, Inc.
Linda Riedel	Independent Consultant
Caleb Sharbono	USAA
Richard W. Shaw	Colonel, US Army, Retired
Edward Wayne Smith	FirstMark Credit Union
Carmen Vazquez-Gonzalez	Community Volunteer
<b>Signature</b>	