

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: San Antonio Youth Literacy	Federal Tax ID#: 74-2325098	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 1616 E. Commerce, Building 2	City: San Antonio	State: TX	Zip Code: 78205
Website: www.sayl.org	Fax: (210) 299-1533	United Way Funded: No	
Fiscal Year: July 01 to June 30			
Head Of Organization			
Name: Dr. Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: deborah.valdez@sayl.org		Phone: (210) 299-1533	
Application Contact			
Name: Patricia Medina	Title: Development Director	E-Mail Address: pat.medina@sayl.org	Phone: (210) 299-1533
Previous Najim Funding			
Year	Funding \$		
2019	\$45,000		
2018	\$50,000		
2017	\$30,000		
2016	\$20,000		
2015	\$15,000		
2014	\$15,000		
2013	\$10,000		
2012	\$15,000		
2011	\$15,000		
2008	\$15,000		
2007	\$10,000		
Total	\$240,000		
Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?			
No			
Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:	
\$65,000	\$241,254	\$437,906	

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**Program / Project Title:**

To support the Reading Buddy Early Literacy Program, which utilizes volunteer reading tutors to assist elementary students.

PROJECT TIMELINE**Start Date**

07/01/2020

End Date

06/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL) is an established nonprofit organization with a proven track record of achieving its mission objectives and planning for managed growth. Established in 1984, SAYL's 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 we began our early elementary literacy tutoring/mentoring program, now known as SAYL's Reading Buddy Program.

SAYL's early literacy tutoring/ mentoring program has undergone slight enhancements since its initial inception. In 2003, SAYL consulted with reading specialist, Suzanne Rea, to work with SAYL to revise the program curriculum. One of the many improvements included the addition of the Slosson Oral Reading Test as a measurement tool in assessing each student's reading grade level as a way to accurately pinpoint those most in need of tutoring. In 2012 the program was revised by limiting our target group to students primarily in second grade and by focusing the program on students who read in a targeted reading range of grades K.9 -1.9. By narrowing our focus to second graders, and to within the listed target range, we were able to further increase the number of students reading on grade level by the time they enter third grade. According to results released by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) of a meta-analysis 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 show a measurable improvement. Within the last five years SAYL has replaced the Slosson Oral Reading Test with one of two assessment tools (the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment and the Measures of Academic Progress Test-MAP) currently in use in most San Antonio schools. These assessment tools give a more accurate leveled literacy rating by addressing the instructional and independent reading levels of students and documenting each student's progress through one-on-one formative and summative assessments. San Antonio Youth Literacy's mission is 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. Our vision is that every child in South Texas enters third grade reading on level. The Reading Buddy Program utilizes trained reading/mentor volunteers, recruited from corporate, faith-based, higher education institution communities, and the community at large. Each of the approximately 650 volunteer tutors/mentors and 1,200 students being served meet one-on-one in a non-threatening environment that is quiet and away from the general school population for 30 minutes weekly, for an average of 20 sessions during the academic year. The curriculum implemented by the volunteers includes sight word recognition activities, reading together, reading by student, and comprehension assessment. This instructional time allows the student the opportunity to receive personalized attention and instructional reinforcement, 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 volunteer at a controlled learning pace, improved reading skills result in increased confidence, resulting in a positive impact on behavior, thereby increasing positive socialization skills and emotional attitudes of the students being tutored/mentored. Students participating in the Reading Buddy Program are all reading at least one or more grade levels below their grade. 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. One of SAYL's challenges is the availability to increase the delivery area of the program in order to meet the needs of the San Antonio community. During the last 6 years SAYL has more than doubled the number of students participating in the Reading Buddy Program. Moving forward it becomes that much more important to secure funding to maintain program growth throughout San Antonio while maintaining program integrity. Although funding is a constant challenge for all non-profits, SAYL's partnership with other entities who share the same vision, i.e. SA2020, the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services, Faith-Based Initiatives and Seniors Program, and our 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 this program. At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, SAYL implemented a pilot program in 4 area elementary schools that encompassed not only 2nd grade students, but 1st and 3rd grades as well. The intent was to gauge whether or not additional assistance during these informative grades would better enhance the students' improvement in their academic skills as well as their behavior and social skills. In order to continue program growth SAYL seeks to increase the participation level to 50% of the schools we serve and is seeking funds in order to continue with this 1st through 3rd grade expansion.

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 and requests for program expansion continue to increase each year. SAYL currently offers this program at no cost to partner schools, all of whom are designated as Title 1 schools - a designation by the federal government given to schools where at least 40% of the school's student are from low-income families. In many of the schools SAYL serves, the poverty rate is much higher at 50%-80%. Future program growth depends on continued growth in financial support to increase the number of program managers needed to ensure consistent program delivery. Ongoing funding sustainability is currently accomplished through an annual fund drive, a special event luncheon, golf tournament, grant requests and contributions from organizations and individuals who share in the belief that San Antonio's future is dependent on the educational levels of today's youth.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
1,300	400

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	6%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	1%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	93%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District5

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Program Supplies	\$7,000	\$7,000
Marketing	\$1,600	\$1,500
Tutor Meetings/Recognitions	\$300	\$300
Travel/Mileage	\$8,000	\$6,000
Cell Phones/Internet	\$9,657	\$8,500

Rent/Utilities	\$15,266	\$12,500
Printing	\$8,850	\$6,500
Payroll	\$190,581	\$22,700
Misc.	\$0	\$0
TOTAL:	\$241,254	\$65,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Greehey Family Foundation	\$20,000
Whitacre Family Foundation	\$20,000
TOTAL:	\$40,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
City of San Antonio	\$50,000
CPS Energy	\$20,000
Valero Energy Foundation	\$10,000
Dollar General	\$4,000
V H McNutt	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$89,000

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
State Farm Foundation	\$7,500
Big Give Campaign	\$10,000
Mays Family Foudation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$27,500

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Annual Golf Tournament	\$15,000
Annual Luncheon	\$50,000
Valero BFC	\$10,000
Enterprise Holdings	\$4,000
TOTAL:	\$79,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

100%

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

N/A

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 also expected to participate in all major fundraising events and to make a personal financial commitment to the organization. Additionally, a majority of our board members currently participate as Reading Buddies, which gives them a better understanding of the program and its content, along with the benefits and impact of mentoring, all of which assists them in their understanding and expertise when describing the program components to the community.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Malinda Gaul/Chair	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
Claire Garza	Valero Energy
Greg Houston	Marmon Mok
Steve Mahoney	Business Owner
Donna McIlveen	Vaco Financial
Richard W. Shaw	Colonel, US Army, Retired
Edward Wayne Smith	CoStar Group
Carmen Vazquez-Gonzalez	Rocar Consulting, Inc.
Erica Bogran	Community Volunteer
Stephen Flores	Jefferson Bank
Lilia Gibson	Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Sarah Stone	The Twig Book Store
Shellie Reyes	Clausewitz Law Firm

Signature

Dr. Deborah Valdez, Ed.D.