

February 13, 2014

Governor Scott Walker and State Superintendent Tony Evers today announced the Read to Lead Development Council is seeking applicants for Read to Lead Development Fund grants. The grants are aimed at improving literacy and early childhood development.

Through the Read to Lead Development Fund, the Council hopes to fund worthy projects to improve literacy and serve as a model to improve the reading achievement of Wisconsin students and adults. Governor Walker and State Superintendent Evers will determine the size of grants based on recommendations from board members. Programs funded may include, but are not limited to: afterschool, parent outreach, and teacher professional development efforts. The 2011-13 budget includes \$400,000 to help the Council's fund get started.

The Council will be looking to award grant funding to the types of projects which:

- Enhance the skills and knowledge (related to the teaching of reading) of practicing educators;
- Provide training on best practices to ensure educators and administrators have the knowledge they need to implement what has been proven to help kids who are struggling to read;
- Enhance the literacy component of 4K programs;
- Offer a strong, evidence-based summer school program for struggling readers;
- Put books into the hands of low-income children and support programs, which encourage parents and caregivers to read to children;
- Support or establish programs to provide parents and caregivers with the skills necessary to foster better oral language development in their children;
- Support or develop collaborations in the community between adult literacy agencies and K-12 schools, so additional reading, writing, and computer literacy skills can be sought by parents wanting to improve their own literacy skills;
- Partner with businesses or organizations to promote the importance of literacy and develop programs to help struggling readers.

An online application form may be found both on the Department of Public Instruction's website (<http://readwisconsin.dpi.wi.gov/>) and Governor Walker's website (<http://read.wi.gov/Home>). Eligible applicants must submit a completed electronic application by 5:00 PM on March 31, 2014.

The Council was formed under Governor Walker's Read to Lead initiative and is a public-private partnership tasked with the goal of supporting and expanding reading and literacy programs in Wisconsin. The Read to Lead Development Council consists of Governor Walker, State Superintendent Tony Evers, legislators, teachers, business and philanthropic representatives, and literacy experts. Read to Lead's goal is to ensure students have the necessary reading skills before they reach 4th grade.