

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

- 1. Project Title:** SMART (Start Making A Reader Today)
- 2. Organization Name and address:** SMART, 219 NW 12th Avenue, Suite 203, Portland, OR 97209
- 3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:** Terry Shanley, CEO; 503-937-4801 (office); 503-816-1718 (fax); tshanley@getsmartoregon.org
- 4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):** Statewide (32 of Oregon's 36 counties)
- 5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:** A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, SMART envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. Our mission is to engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families. Since 1992, SMART has delivered its proven literacy program to more than 100,000 children and has given away nearly 2 million books.
- 6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Children are expected to read independently by third grade, yet the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that more than 1 in 3 Oregon fourth graders reads below even the basic level. Research also shows that children who do not learn to read by third grade are more likely to struggle with reading as adults, drop out of school, be less successfully employed, and face incarceration. This all-too-common scenario has a devastating impact on the individual child and the community at large, and it demands immediate action.

To help address this crisis, SMART delivers weekly one-on-one reading support and new books to thousands of high-need K-3 children. A rigorous independent study by the Eugene Research Institute reveals that fifth graders who participated in the program are 60 percent more likely to reach state reading benchmarks than are similar students who did not participate. By intervening early, we are empowering children to succeed, to pursue their dreams, and to be productive members of society. We are also strengthening our schools, our communities, and our entire state, whose social and economic prospects depend on strong, literate citizens.

The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy has recognized SMART as one of five national K-12 intervention programs yielding positive results in well-designed, randomized, controlled trials. The Chalkboard Project released a report endorsing SMART as a model program for helping struggling K-3 students get the extra literacy support they need. In a recent survey by the *Portland Business Journal*, more than 2,500 CEOs across Oregon rated SMART one of the state's top ten "most admired" nonprofits for its innovation, quality of program and service, and active community involvement.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? Yes

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding. SMART received a \$298,050 federal appropriation in fiscal year 2004 that came from the Fund for the Improvement of Education's Programs of National Significance account (84.215K) at the Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement in the Labor, Health, and Human Services bill.

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account): SMART's \$298,050 federal appropriation in fiscal year 2004 came from the Fund for the Improvement of Education's Programs of National Significance account at the Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. SMART may also fit into accounts that focus on reading excellence or mentoring.

9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Education authorizes funding for "programs at the state and local levels that are designed to yield significant results." With proven long-term results confirmed by published independent research and with recognition from the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy as one of only five national K-12 intervention programs yielding positive results in well-designed, randomized, controlled trials, SMART fulfills this mandate and serves as a model for the nation. In addition, in this era of increased accountability and higher standards, schools need the extra support that SMART provides to help meet the goals of the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act.

Without question, our economy depends on those who drive it. By intervening early and investing in literacy support for children, we are improving the prospects for our economy for years to come.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? Yes
If so, who? SMART is working with Oregon's entire congressional delegation to coordinate a successful request for funding in fiscal year 2010.

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years): SMART's estimated budget for FY 2010 is \$3.2 million.

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010: SMART requests a \$900,000 appropriation to help fund its proven literacy program for 3,000 children.

c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)

SMART has received past support and endorsements from a broad range of the Northwest's leading foundations, companies, and government agencies. The following is a list of committed major support for 2008-09 (a complete list is available on request):

James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation \$200,000 (two-year pledge); PacTrust \$75,000 (three-year pledge); Portland Children's Investment Fund \$55,000; The Collins Foundation \$50,000; Fred Meyer Foundation \$40,000; NW Natural \$26,000; NIKE \$25,000; U.S. Bank \$25,000; JFR Foundation \$20,000; Whipple Foundation Fund \$20,000; LP Brown Foundation \$15,000; Silicon Valley Community Foundation \$15,000; Verizon \$10,880; Bank of America \$10,000; Tim and Mary Boyle \$10,000; Quest for Truth Foundation \$10,000; KMSB Foundation \$10,000; Cressey Family Foundation \$10,000; Express Employment Professionals \$10,000; Mary and Brett Wilcox \$10,000.

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project? As long as federal funds are available for innovative state and regional early literacy programs, SMART expects to request similar appropriation amounts in future years.

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

\$443,943	Salaries for direct-service program staff
100,505	Books and program materials
148,552	Other direct program costs (volunteer background checks, evaluation, insurance, outreach, office expenses, recognition, recruitment, training, and travel)
\$900,000	Total

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

SMART has been endorsed by several organizations that are helping to shape the debate about education priorities in Oregon and throughout the country.

The Chalkboard Project—a coalition of five Oregon charitable foundations working to improve K-12 public education—released a report endorsing SMART as a model program for helping struggling K-3 students get the extra literacy support they need. “Programs like Start Making A Reader Today work,” the report says. “What they need is support. Districts and businesses must work together to support volunteer programs with time and money, so that all K-3 students who are reading below grade level get individual help.” See www.chalkboardproject.org for more information.

The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, sponsored by the Council for Excellence in Government, has recognized SMART as one of five national K-12 intervention programs yielding positive results in well-designed, randomized, controlled trials. The Coalition cites SMART as a “low-cost intervention (that) has sizable positive impacts on students’ reading ability.” More information is available at www.evidencebasedprograms.org.

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?): As a broad-reaching community-based program, SMART is easily scalable. A federal contribution of any amount would be applied to the program, but a smaller appropriation would fund it for fewer children.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:
appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov