
From: Meredith Helmick <meredith@storiedkids.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:53 PM
To: Subcommittee on Education Accountability
Subject: Public Comments for the Interim Finance Committee, Subcommittee on Education Accountability Meeting

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Executive Director of Storied, Inc., a recipient of the Early Childhood Innovative Literacy Program (ECILP) grant. I would like to include the following comments to be read into the public record during the meeting on May 1, 2024.

Storied, Inc. is the Clark County affiliate for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails new, free, high-quality books to children each month until they reach the age of five, no matter their family's income level or where they reside within Clark County. Storied, Inc.'s primary goal is to raise enough funds so that every child under the age of five in Clark County can participate in the program.

It is widely recognized that the best way to promote language development and literacy in young children is by reading aloud to them. Children with just 25 books in the home are more likely to complete an additional 2 years of school. A survey of families who participated in the program showed that reading 3 times a week increased from 59.7% to 85.2% and the percent of families that read to their child daily increased from 29% to 59.3%.

Prior to this grant's launch, we were a new non-profit with funding to support less than 100 kids at any given time. The problem was we had more than 3,500 children sitting in pending status waiting to be approved.

When the grant launched, we applied and were beyond thrilled to receive funding. This meant we could not only approve the backlog of children in pending status, but actively work towards enrolling as many kids as we could. Over the course of our first year in the grant program, we went from having 56 children enrolled to now having enough funding to cover over 10,000 children. It is undeniable that this grant changed the course of our non-profit in every way and we can't thank you enough for it.

We were even more elated and appreciative to have been approved for additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year that will allow us to double the number of children enrolled to more than 20,000 children.

Thank you for investing in the future of so many Clark County children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We are forever grateful.

Best regards,

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Storied, Inc.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
Affiliate for Clark County, NV

