

VI. GENERAL FUND AND MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE FUND**A.2 Finances - FY2011 Line Item Request**

I recommend the Commission include a line item (an enhancement, or above maintenance level) for the Read to Me (RTM) program in its FY2011 budget request. This request would return state funding for RTM to the FY2009 expenditure level. At a time when most public libraries are experiencing significant increases in use and decreasing revenues, a small increase in RTM funding will enable more of them to implement local programs. While state revenue projections are discouraging, I believe RTM's success in developing behaviors in parents and young children to improve reading skills makes it worthy of consideration for additional funding.

Proposed FY2011 Line Item Request:

Personnel	\$0	
Operating	\$49,000	Educational materials for First Book and Jump Start
Capital Outlay	\$0	
Trustee & Benefit	\$150,000	Mini-grants to libraries
Total request	\$199,000	

Suggested motion: I move that the Read to Me program be approved as the FY2011 line item request in the amount of \$199,000.

MSC _____

BACKGROUND

From the 2008-2009 Read to Me Evaluation Report by Dr. Roger Stewart:

- “The evaluator [Dr. Stewart] has over 30 years of experience in a variety of educational settings. He has conducted numerous program evaluations throughout his career. Never has he encountered as motivated and dedicated a group of professionals as the people in the libraries that were visited. The level of commitment to accomplishing the proposed grant activities was consistently high. The passion library personnel had for reaching out in new ways to their service areas in order to get more children to read and to have more parents adequately prepared to facilitate their children’s early literacy development was inspiring.”

- “All the programs have been highly successful to date. The changes in parent behaviors in regard to children’s early literacy are striking. Parents are reading more to their children and focusing on the six early literacy skills. Parent evaluations of all of the programs where they have been surveyed have been stellar.”
- “The response [to the First Book parent surveys] was overwhelmingly positive. To have a program that is statewide and reaches as many different constituencies as this one does and have no one be dissatisfied is amazing. First Book is a very powerful program that produces stellar results and leaves people feeling very positive about the experience. Importantly, there appears to be substantial evidence that the program effectively educates parents and caregivers while also changing important parenting and caregiving behaviors.”

State Funding for Read to Me:

- Personnel:
FY2009: \$89,500 was appropriated for two new positions: one project coordinator and one office specialist 2. The OS 2 position was not filled due to the holdbacks.
FY2010: Maintained at the FY2009 expenditure level.
FY2011 request: \$0
- Operating:
FY2009: \$96,000 was appropriated and expended for
 - educational materials for participating libraries and their community partners to reach 2,122 children through 25 library First Book programs and approximately 11,000 through Jump Start kindergarten registration,
 - an extensive project evaluation, and
 - a professional development component for participating library staff.
FY2010: With a 19.8% budget reduction, \$32,000 is earmarked for First Book and \$15,000 for Jump Start, for a total of \$47,000 in our base appropriation.
FY2011 request: an additional \$49,000
- Trustee and Benefit:
FY2009: \$150,000 (OT, 1-time) was appropriated and expended for \$5,000 mini-grants to 30 public libraries to help support local RTM initiatives focused on best practices in early literacy and outreach programs.
FY2010: \$0
FY2011 request: \$150,000 (ongoing)