

Save the Children CA is offering grants for all public libraries, especially those in rural areas. Grants should focus on supporting literacy for children aged 0-12, primarily from rural and underserved communities.

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for literacy projects, such as books for home libraries, seasonal reading events, and even books for the children's collection.

Project implementation start date: 12/15/24

Project implementation end date: 6/30/25

Final life of project reporting consisting of narrative and indicator reporting served during the entire grant period December 2024 to June 2025. Due July 11th, 2025

To Apply: Review the attached application and submit your application at ImpactHubPortal.savethechildren.org. If you're new to the portal, select "not a member" then select "CA Winter Literacy Micro-Grants." Mendo EIN: 94-6000520

For questions on the portal, email: impacthubsupport@savechildren.org.

For questions about this grant opportunity, contact Lucero Chavez Ramirez with Save the Children CA at lchavezramirez@savechildren.org.

Project Details

Planned Start Date: December 2024

Planned End Date: June 2025

Funding needed to start this project. Yes

Total Project Cost: \$9,850

600 home library books x \$10/book = \$6000

30 Spanish books added to collection x \$30/book = \$900

20 Indigenous books added to collection x \$15/book = \$300

13 Vox books added to collection x \$50/book = \$650

Traveling StoryWalks = \$2000

Amount Requested: \$9,850

Cost Share (will there be other sources of funding for this?): No

Project Description: Providing Spanish-language books and books by/about Indigenous people for children's home libraries and to the Library's collection. Providing bilingual Storywalk materials that will travel throughout Mendocino County.

Is your organization fiscally sponsored? No

Project Roles

At least one active Primary Point of Contact AND Finance Point of Contact AND Partner Signatory must be specified before marking this section as complete.

Primary Point of Contact: Nayo Sicard

Finance Point of Contact: Barb Chapman

Program Selection

NOTE: This funding opportunity may have required and/or optional Programs and Program Components.

Included Programs: Early Learning Impact Grants – Community Impact

Geographic Areas

State: CA County: Mendocino

Narrative

Organization Information: Please describe your current programs and activities

The Mendocino County Library currently serves a population of approximately 89,000 people in rural and geographically isolated communities. The Library consists of six branches and one Bookmobile. Over the last fiscal year, the Library has provided over 3,000 programs to the community, including over 1,700 programs for children and teens. Programs cover a wide range of topics, including storytimes, arts and crafts, technology assistance, STEM projects, book clubs, poetry readings, author talks, outreach to local community organizations, and many more. Attendance at programs has surged in the past year, with over 47,000 people attending in fiscal year 23-24. The Library's focus with these programs is to enrich lives with education, culture, and entertainment to create an informed, connected, inclusive, and creative community.

Project Overview: Please provide an overview of your proposal, including:

The proposed project will be to fund a series of outreach events that will reach underserved and underrepresented children in Spanish-speaking and Indigenous communities. They would be given Spanish language books and/or books by and about Indigenous peoples for their home libraries. The Library would also create three bilingual traveling StoryWalks in cooperation with local merchants across Mendocino County. Each StoryWalk would have pages of a book displayed in storefront windows that children and families follow throughout the town, like a literacy treasure hunt. This would support early literacy as well as physical fitness, child/caregiver interaction, and community engagement with local businesses. The Library would also add copies of these books to the library collection for all patrons to borrow. The purpose of this project would be to expand the children's home libraries and give them access to materials that represent parts of their own culture and social experiences, to allow them to see themselves in the books. Anticipated outcomes would include a surge of interest in literacy and the library from the children and their families in the Spanish-speaking, bilingual, and Indigenous local communities, including library card sign-ups and increased visits to the Library and programs. The goal would be for these children to feel more represented by the materials in

the library, making them feel that the library is a welcoming and accessible place that offers important literacy resources for them. Another anticipated outcome would be to increase the number of Spanish language books for children, as well as increase the number of titles by and about the underrepresented Indigenous populations in the library's collection.

Individuals and communities served would include the large number of Spanish-speaking, bilingual, and Hispanic populations, as well as Indigenous residents. Mendocino County's population is made up of 27% Hispanic or Latinos, including 22% of people for whom another language is spoken at home, most often Spanish. There are also eleven diverse Indigenous tribes within Mendocino County, including the Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, the Pinoleville Pomo Nation, the Potter Valley Tribe, the Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians, the Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, and the Yokayo Tribe. The Library would focus this program around these populations and community spaces where Spanish-speaking, bilingual, and Indigenous people gather to dispense children's books for home libraries and build lasting connections with these underserved communities.

Funds for the program will be spent primarily on purchasing children's books in Spanish and those that are written by and/or about Native Americans. Most of these books would be given out to children during six outreach events at local institutions like rancherias, Spanish language community events, and community spaces. Additionally, we would be purchasing materials for the traveling StoryWalk, which will be in several towns within Mendocino County. Funds would also go toward purchasing copies of these books to add to the library's collection.

The timeline would include selecting and purchasing of books and StoryWalk materials in December 2024 and January 2025. Library staff would make connections with local reservations/Hispanic organizations in December and January to schedule outreach events, distribution of books, and connect with merchants to arrange StoryWalk locations. Outreach/library events would take place at least once a month for February – June 2025. StoryWalks would take place at several locations from February – June 2025, including in April to celebrate El día de los niños.

Project Details: Please describe the problem or need which you seek to solve.

We currently host outreach events at many locations, including Native American reservations. On several occasions, library staff have received requests from these patrons asking for more books by Indigenous authors about Indigenous culture, especially those for children. It has been found that children with home libraries have higher literacy rates. Grant funds would support this as well as supplement our Spanish language material budget. However, the Library's current budget does not allow enough funds to meet all these needs. We recognize the need for specifically Indigenous and Spanish language books for the children in our community and this program would give us the resources to help fund that. The StoryWalk would supplement our

outreach events by going into communities and businesses that local families visit even when the library is closed.

Please describe the purpose and objectives of your proposal.

The purpose of this project would be to expand children’s home libraries, encourage early literacy, and provide access to diverse materials that represent Hispanic and Native American culture and traditions. A significant portion of our community identifies as Hispanic or Indigenous, and access to these materials would more meaningfully reflect and celebrate their heritage and lived experience. Another goal of the program is to expand the Library’s collection of Spanish-language children's books, and to add more titles by and about underrepresented Indigenous populations. Our current collection is in need of more materials that represent these cultures, and the many multifaceted perspectives that they provide. All children in the community would benefit from reading and learning from this increased multicultural collection, which would provide a more inclusive and diverse experience for our patrons. This supports the Library’s commitment to equity and inclusion, providing resources for an informed, connected, and welcoming community that celebrates opportunities for discovery. The goal of the traveling StoryWalk is to reach children and families who may not have visited the library, creating engagement with the community in a non-library setting to encourage people to come into the library to support increased literacy.

Please provide an overview of your proposed timeline and when objectives are set to be completed within the timeframe.

December 2024: Notice of application approval.

December - February 2025: Present grant to Board of Supervisors for approval. Select and purchase of books for home libraries, library collection, and StoryWalks.

Decide distribution of books for library collection amongst branches.

Library staff will make connections with local rancherias/Hispanic organizations/community organizations to schedule outreach events and distribution of books. Contact merchants to plan StoryWalk locations.

Create survey to provide to patrons to help evaluate experience at outreach events.

February – June 2025: Receive purchased books, set aside copies for outreach events and distribute amongst branches for library collection. Setup StoryWalks in several locations.

Six outreach events would take place at several locations within Mendocino County. Potential organizations include Redwood Valley Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Reservation, Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, and local non-profits active in the Hispanic community such as Nuestra Alianza and the Mendocino Latinx Alliance.

Collect materials for reports, including patron stories, photos, survey responses, and media waivers from patron participants.

Prepare marketing materials for outreach events and StoryWalks.

June – July 2025: Prepare the final project report, to be completed by July 11, 2025.