

Grant Program *

Family Place 2025

Name

Laredo Public Library

Legal Entity

City of Laredo

Project Title *

FPG-25004 - Bruni Plaza Branch Library Family Place Grant

Project Manager *

Melinda Villa

Submit Date

10/15/2024 2:12 PM

Program Partners

Webb County Head Start, Laredo Independent School District, United Independent School District, faith based private school centers, Driscoll Health Care, City of Laredo Health Department, WIC Program and Early Childhood Intervention.

Program Abstract

Four (4) out of five (5) Laredo Public Library Branches are currently part of the Family Place Libraries initiative. All have met success. We would like the Bruni Plaza Branch Library to be part of this great initiative so that we can share this positive in areas of our community.

Criterion 01

NEEDS ASSESSMENT: Describe any community needs which align with the grant purpose that your library or branch is meeting or striving to meet.

Answer

The City of Laredo has a population of 257,602. It is located on the southern border of Texas and Mexico connecting to New Mexico. 94.9% of Laredo's population is Hispanic, only 23.9% have attained a Bachelor's degree or higher, 22.4% live below the poverty line, and according to Webb County's 2018 Community Needs Assessment approximately 48% of residents are lacking literacy skills. The Bruni Plaza Branch Library is one of five branches of the Laredo Public Libraries and is located on the Western area of the city. It serves a population of 31,324 including 8 elementary schools (2 private), 2 middle schools (1 private), and 1 high school. The library offers various educational and fun programs and activities such as puppet show outreaches, Storytime, STEM activities, night outreaches, NASA at Your Library activities, and more. Our community has a great need for more educational activities and programs that promote literacy and education. This area of the city is a part of the community that lacks a family-oriented environment and activities. The Bruni Plaza Branch Library strives to provide a space for residents that will encourage parents and caregivers to engage with their children while also learning and participating in a number of programming that play a major role in children's growth and development.

Criterion 02

PROGRAM DESIGN: Explain how participation in this program aligns with your library or branch's mission and goals in serving the community.

Answer

The Laredo Public Libraries' mission is to provide resources and services that meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of all of Webb County's residents. Similar to Family Place Libraries, the Bruni Plaza Branch Library's strives to offer a family focused activities that promote and encourage early literacy, education, parent/guardian engagement, and a learning environment that promotes cognitive and early childhood development. The Bruni Library also aims to increase attendance at new programming and activities, provide resources that target families with young children, promote literacy and learning and creating a family friendly environment that is welcoming while also fun and educational for young children. In becoming a Family Place Libraries initiative, the Bruni Plaza Branch Library will be able to further their role in being a significant part of childhood literacy and development, parent education and engagement, and ensuring that all children are school ready.

Criterion 03

PROJECT IMPACT: Explain how the Family Place model and funding will equip your library or branch to enhance the current services, and space for young children in the library or branch.

Answer

The Bruni Plaza Branch Library currently offers Storytime for children five and under twice a month. It promotes engagement for children and their parent/guardian and encourages the development of socialization skills with other participating families. The library also encourages early childhood development such as literacy skills through the book readings, fine and gross motor development through dancing and movement with props (rhythm sticks, scarves, instruments, etc.), language and vocabulary growth, and much more. STEM activities are also offered twice a month and are open to children of all ages. Through our STEM activities, we offer family-oriented activities that encourage critical thinking, problem solving, family engagement, and more. These activities allow children to use a number of skills to explore and make their own discoveries.

By becoming part of the Family Place Libraries, the Bruni Branch staff will have the opportunity to attend trainings that will help them to gain more knowledge to help create a family friendly environment and expand programming that supports and promotes family engagement, and early childhood development. Example of such programs include sensory play for children under three where they can explore a variety of sensory bins and a toddler "stay and play" where little ones will have the opportunity to play and socialize with other families.

Criterion 04

SUSTAINABILITY: Describe your library or branch's support for continued development of the program at the conclusion of the period - including funding sources and/or any support from organization leadership, partners, and community members.

Answer 04

The Bruni Plaza Branch Library is staffed with a circulation supervisor, and a full-time library assistant. This staff will be working to offer the Parent Child Workshops and will meet all Family Place Library requirements. The branch also has a part-time librarian who will be trained in-house and will be assisting with the workshops, as needed. The Library Department is funded through Laredo's General Fund. The Bruni Plaza Branch is assigned its own budget every FY. Throughout the years these funds have been used to develop our collection of books, DVDs, STEM kits for all ages, etc. We've also been able to purchase a variety of items to develop and sustain our children's programs. In addition, we've been able to create a small children's play area with educational developmental toys.

The Bruni Library also has the full support from our Library Director and librarians from our current Family Place Libraries (Guerra Laredo Public Library, the Barbara Fasken Branch Library, the Inner-City Branch Library, and the McKendrick Ochoa Library). Support and funding for these libraries continues and no doubt that it will also continue for the Bruni Plaza Branch. We can also count on support from a number of community organizations that we partner with throughout the year. These organizations include the City of Laredo, the City of Laredo Health Department, Laredo Independent School District, United Independent District, Driscoll Health, Webb County Head Start, and more. We will continue to partner with these organizations and will attend the Parent Child Workshops as resource professionals to assist any and all parents in need.

Criterion 05

EVALUATION: Explain how your library or branch uses program evaluation results to ensure that the library's activities support its mission and goals.

Answer 05

The Bruni Plaza Branch Library collects data on program statistics such as attendance and participant feedback. We analyze and identify all strengths and areas where we may need improvement for each program. We use the gathered information to ensure we are achieving the library's mission and goals. Based on the information that we gather we are able to determine if the program is working for our community or if we need to improve it by adjusting the scheduled times programming is being offered, the topics we are offering, or our marketing methods. For the Family Place Libraries, we would use similar techniques to evaluate our Family Place Workshops. We will offer participants surveys where we can gather information on attendance, any suggestions they may have for improvement, and so they may also share their satisfaction with the program. We will analyze each survey and use the information to improve our programming, delivery methods, and to ensure that we are supporting our mission and goals.

Criterion 06

EXPANSION OR NEW: This expansion or new project? Expansion projects are established, qualified, Family Place Libraries that expand the Family Place program into one additional branch in their library system this fiscal year.

Answer 06

This would be an expansion. The Laredo Public Libraries has 5 branches, with 4 already being a part of the Family Place Libraries.

Capitalization Level

Max Grant Amount

\$7,400.00

Salaries/Wages/Benefits

\$0

\$0

\$0

Salaries/Wages/Benefits Description

—

Consultant Fees

\$0

Consultant Fees Other Funds

\$0

Total Consultant Fees

\$0

Consultant Fees Description

—

Travel

\$1,000

Travel Other Funds

\$0

Total Travel

\$1,000

Travel Description

Car Rental: \$510

Gas: \$180 est.

Meals not covered by Grant: est. 6 meals each at \$20 per meal - \$240

Supplies/Materials

\$8,000

Supplies/Materials Other Funds

\$0

Total Supplies/Materials

\$8,000

Supplies/Material Description

Materials and Furniture to set up Learning Center and for Parent Child Workshops. See attached Spreadsheet for details.

Equipment

\$0

Equipment Other Funds

\$0

Total Equipment

\$0

Equipment Description

—

Services

\$0

Services Other Funds

\$0

Total Services

\$0

—

Total Direct Costs

\$9,000

Base

\$0

Indirect Rate (0-1)

0.0000

Total Direct Other Funds

\$0

Total Direct Total Costs

\$9,000

Indirect Costs

\$0

Indirect Costs Total Cost

\$0

Indirect Costs Description

Total Grant Fund

\$9,000

Total Other Funds

\$0

Total Costs

\$9,000

Expected Program Income
