

Family-School Partnership Funding Sources



Please note that many listed grants are contingent upon state and federal budgetary allocations. All information contained herein is subject to change.

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Contributors	4
Introduction	5

Federal Funding Sources

21 st Century Community Learning Centers	6
Early Childhood Special Education	6
Early Learning Initiative	7
Early Reading First	7
Even Start	8
IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)	8
Mentoring Grants	9
Poverty Based Assistance	9
Reading First	10
Safe Schools-Healthy Students Initiative	10
Title I (School Improvement)	11
Title II A (Improving Teacher Quality)	11
Title II D (Technology)	11
Title III (LEP)	12
Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools)	12
Title V (Innovative Programs)	13
Title VI (Rural Low Income School Program)	13

State Funding Sources

Alternative Education Challenge	14
Learn and Serve America in Ohio (Service-Learning)	14
Parent Mentors of Ohio	15

Private Funding Sources

AAA Ohio Auto Club	16
American Association of University Women	16
Ameritech Foundation Grants	17
Buid-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation	17
Columbus Foundation	17
Comcast Foundation Grants	18
CVS Caremark Charitable Trust	18
Dollar General Family Literacy Grants	19
Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant Program	19
Lowe's Toolbox for Education	19
Martha Holden Jennings Foundation	20
Mattel Children's Foundation Grants	20
My Home Town Helper (General Mills)	21
Nord Family Foundation	21

Staples Foundation for Learning Grants	21
Target Arts Grants	22
Target Early Childhood Reading Grants	22
Target Family Violence Prevention Grants	22
Tiger Woods Foundation	23
Toyota Family Literacy Program Grants	23
Verizon Foundation	24
Verizon Tech Savvy Awards	24

Appendix

Alphabetical Index	25
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Contributors

The Ohio Department of Education produced this summary of funding sources in response to many requests from parent liaisons, schools and parent groups. We value your feedback and assistance in keeping this document current. Please send any comments and additional known resources to Jennifer Vargo at the e-mail address below.

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Introduction

Family involvement is a well-researched best practice in education. Schools and communities that are committed to quality education for children understand the strong link between family involvement and academic achievement, school climate and the well-being of students. Parent groups and schools work diligently to engage families in meaningful and effective ways. Funding to support parent engagement is intended to support school improvement and student achievement.

The Ohio Department of Education developed this document to help educators and community members access both public and private funding available to support family involvement. You may find that your view of family involvement is expanded as you review the many sources of funding. Within this document are funding sources for strengthening and supporting families with issues such as housing, health care and adult education. There are funding sources activities led by parent groups to improve libraries, build playgrounds, empower mothers and provide mentoring and tutoring services. Other funding sources are directed at helping schools connect and communicate with families. Still others are for teaching and equipping families to help their children learn at home.

The funding sources in this document are organized by origin: public federal funds for schools, state funds and private sources. Within these broad categories, sources are listed alphabetically. Some federal funds are “**entitlement funds**” that most Ohio schools receive each year through a state fiscal process. Through this process, funding flows from the federal government to states for distribution to districts each year. Federal entitlement grant funds, such as Title I, are awarded to eligible districts on the basis of the U. S. Census poverty count. Parent involvement activities are required in **all** federal entitlement grants. Grant monies are to be spent on recognized best practices that support school improvement and student achievement.

District leadership teams are encouraged to leverage multiple fiscal resources to support the implementation of effective family and community engagement strategies. These strategies may include using general revenue, federal, restricted state and private funds. District and school plans for the use of entitlement funds are explained in the district-level Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>, keyword search: *CCIP*. Other funding sources are designated “**competitive funds**,” meaning a school or parent group must apply and compete with other applicants to receive the funding. At the end of this document are two indexes to help determine the sources of funding that may be applied to various types of family involvement activities.

The Ohio Department of Education designed this document as a useful resource for parent groups, teachers, administrators and community members who understand that family involvement in the education of Ohio's students is critical. Our goals are that the families of all Ohio's students will be effectively engaged through your efforts, and that every student will have the support they need to succeed.

Federal Funding Sources

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC)

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations

To learn more:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us> Keyword search: *Twenty-first Century Grant Program*

Description:

21st Century Community Learning Center grants provide students with out-of-school opportunities for improving reading and math achievement. Funding is targeted to students who attend low performing schools, students not passing state achievement tests, or students who qualify for free and/or reduced-price school meals. Funded programs may include a broad array of services during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session, including before and after school and during summer recess. For example, activities may focus on youth development; drug and violence prevention; counseling; art, music, and recreation programs; technology education; and character-education initiatives that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students. In addition, community learning centers offer opportunities for literacy and related educational development to families of participating students.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE/IDEA)

Type:

Entitlement and Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us> Keyword search: *ECSE*

Description:

Early Childhood Special Education funding is available for implementing activities that increase meaningful involvement of families in the educational process, particularly through improved cooperation and communication between schools and the parents of children with disabilities. Funding sources require that these activities be designed with parent involvement. Establishing a parent group to promote understanding of mentoring and the special education process and are possible activities. Allowable expenditures for

this initiative include the cost of a “parent mentor” position or other parent education activities and include purchase of related materials to increase student achievement.

Early Learning Initiative (ELI)

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

Local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, or public or private nonprofit or for-profit agencies. Grantee agencies may subcontract with other child-service agencies to provide services to children in Head Start.

To learn more:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

Keyword search: *ELI*

Description:

The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to provide children often identified at-risk of school failure with education experiences that will help them enter kindergarten ready for success. The initiative also is concerned with the child-care needs of working families. Family involvement and parenting education are key activities of ELI.

Early Reading First

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts eligible for an Early Reading First sub-grant are public or private organizations or agencies located in a community served by an eligible district. Districts apply directly to the federal government.

To learn more:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/earlyreading/index.html>

Description:

The Early Reading First program supports the development of early childhood centers of excellence that focus on all areas of development – but especially on the early language, cognitive and pre-reading skills that prepare children for continued school success and that serve primarily children from low-income families. This program considers parent engagement as a viable use of funds.

Even Start

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

Keyword search: *Even Start*

Description:

Even Start is an education program for the nation's low-income families that is designed to improve the academic achievement of young children and their parents, especially in the area of reading.

Even Start combines four core components for family literacy:

- Early childhood education;
- Adult literacy (adult basic and secondary-level education and/or instruction for English language learners);
- Parenting education; and
- Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.

Even Start supports family literacy services for parents with low literacy skills or who have limited English proficiency, and their children, primarily birth through age seven.

Even Start has three literacy-related goals:

- To help parents improve their literacy or basic educational skills;
- To help parents become full partners in educating their children; and
- To assist children in reaching their full potential as learners.

IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act)

Type:

Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip>

Click on "Document Library"

Description:

IDEA provides funding for promising practices including parent visits to exemplary programs and to schools with effective programs. Funds may be used to support activities that increase the meaningful involvement of families in the educational process

by improving cooperation and communication between schools and the parents of children with disabilities. Funding is available for the cost of a parent-mentor position.

Mentoring Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts, community-based organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpmentoring/index.html>

Description:
Assistance is provided to promote mentoring programs for children with the greatest need. Grants are provided to programs that: (1) assist such children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor; (2) improve the academic performance of such children; (3) improve interpersonal relationships between such children and their peers, teachers, other adults and family members; and (4) reduce the dropout rate of such children; and (5) reduce juvenile delinquency and gang involvement by such children.

Poverty Based Assistance

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Selected school districts

To learn more:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>. Click Finance and Grants >Finance Resources and Tools >Biennial Budget Formulas and Requirements>Spending and Reporting Requirements for Poverty Based Assistance FY2008-09.

Description:
Poverty based assistance (PBA) funds are provided to districts on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students from families receiving public assistance. The aid is based on relative concentrations of poverty – the percentage of disadvantaged students in a district compared to the statewide average percentage of disadvantaged students. As the concentration of poverty in a district increases, funding also increases.

PBA funds may be provided for any of the following purposes: all-day kindergarten programs, extended learning opportunities, academic intervention services, services to students with limited English proficiency, teacher professional development, community

outreach programs, dropout prevention programs, programs to address non-academic barriers to learning, early childhood education and fee waivers for disadvantaged students. The funds are restricted, and districts are required to file final expenditure reports detailing their use. Family involvement is an integral component of student intervention, addressing non-academic barriers to learning, early childhood programs, community outreach and highly qualified teacher professional development standards.

Reading First

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us> Keyword search: *Reading First*

Description:
Reading First grants: prepare teachers to identify reading barriers, and equip them with tools to help all children read well; provide assistance in screening, diagnostic and classroom reading assessments; assist in efforts to prevent or remediate reading failure; and strengthen coordination among schools, families and communities for improved reading achievement.

Safe Schools – Healthy Students Initiative

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpsafeschools/index.html>

Description:
Grants support school districts in the development of community-wide approaches to creating safe and drug-free schools and promoting healthy childhood development. Programs are intended to prevent violence and the illegal use of drugs and to promote safety and discipline. Districts are required to partner with local law enforcement, public mental health and juvenile justice agencies. Outreach to families and activities to involve families are appropriate uses for these funds.

Title I (School Improvement)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip> Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title I funding may be used for parental involvement activities such as sending materials and information home in a language that the parents can understand; literacy training for parents; providing information and training for parents to help them understand and develop skills for helping their child read at home; training parents to use technology for monitoring their children's progress; and establishing two-way communication between home and school. For districts receiving more than \$500,000, 1 percent of the grant must be used for parental involvement (95 percent of that 1 percent must be made available for use by district school buildings.)

Title II A (Improving Teacher Quality)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip> Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title II A funds support professional development opportunities to improve teacher quality. Funds may be used for teacher and principal training in effective parent involvement.

Title II D (Technology)

Type:
Entitlement and Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:

<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip>

Click on "Document Library"

Description:

This funding supports training for adults in the use of technology to develop or expand efforts that promote meaningful parental involvement. The goals are (1) to increase communication about curricula, assignments and assessments between students, parents and teachers; and (2) to help parents understand the technology being used in their child's education, so they can reinforce technology instruction at home.

Title III (LEP)

Type:

Entitlement for selected districts

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip>

Click on "Document Library"

Description:

Title III funds may be applied to community participation programs, family literacy services and parent outreach and training activities to families of children with limited English proficiency. This includes activities to help parents become active participants in the education of their children. Funding may be applied to activities coordinated with community-based organizations to offer comprehensive community services that help parents.

Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools)

Type:

Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip>

Click on "Document Library"

Description:

Title IV funds are for comprehensive programs coordinated with other school and community-based programs that include activities to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement. These include activities to promote the involvement of parents in the activity or program. Authorized activities include

involving families in setting clear expectations against violence and illegal use of drugs; professional development and training for parents in prevention, education and early identification and intervention; mentoring; or rehabilitation referral related to drug and violence prevention. Activities also may include counseling for families.

Title V (Innovative Programs)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip> Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title V funds must be used for innovative programs. Schools may use funds for a wide range of activities, materials, and meeting expenses for: adult education for families of children served by the district; family literacy; promoting or expanding public school choice; school-based mental health services for families; and other activities to support academic achievement through parent involvement.

Title VI (Rural Low Income School Program)

Type:
Entitlement for eligible districts

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Eligible rural, low income school districts

To learn more:
<http://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/ccip> Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Funding is available for general (unspecified) parental involvement activities. Schools are free to design and implement activities to meet the needs of local families.

State Funding Sources

Alternative Education Challenge

Type:

Continuation of Competitive Grant

Who may re-apply for or access this funding?

School districts and Educational Service Centers

To learn more:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us> Keyword search: *Alternative Education Challenge Grants*

Description:

The Alternative Education Challenge is a grant program designed to help local school districts work with community partners to develop alternative education strategies for at-risk children and youth. Family engagement is a guiding principle for these programs.

Learn and Serve America In Ohio (Service-Learning)

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School Districts

To learn more:

<http://www.learnandserveohio.org>

Description:

Learn and Serve Ohio provides grants to schools to support efforts to engage Ohio students in community service that furthers academic achievement and the development of civic skills (service-learning). Serving with local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols, restore the environment, respond to disasters and build nonprofit capacity.

Parent Mentors Of Ohio

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts

To learn more:

http://www.thelinkto.org/parentmentor/grant_info.htm

Description:

Parent Mentor grants provide funding for the employment of a parent of a child with a disability to mentor other parents. Parent mentors work in conjunction with various professionals, school officials and parents to meet the needs of students. Parent mentors: provide, organize and/or conduct training and provide technical assistance to parents, district personnel and community members; promote parent mentor services within the school district and community (i.e., establish parent support groups and/or support parent networking as needed and help parents find and access community resources); attend Individual Educational Plan meetings at parent's or district's request; and promote collaboration among child service agencies and related organizations to increase student achievement.

Private Funding Sources

AAA Ohio Auto Club

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

Students, advisors, schools, and parent organizations

To learn more:

<http://www.aaaohio.com/Corporate/GrantsAndScholarships.aspx>

Description:

AAA Ohio Auto Club has several grants, scholarships, contests and awards available, including grants for safety patrols and after-prom celebrations. General information is available online. Detailed information is sent to all schools within AAA Ohio Auto Club's 38-county area in October. Also contact the AAA Ohio Traffic Safety Department at 614-431-7891 or e-mail mgallimore@aaaohio.com.

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

Women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents

To learn more:

<http://www.aauw.org>

Description:

This grant program provides one-year grants for seed money for new projects. Topic areas are unrestricted, but should include a clearly defined activity that promotes education and equity for women and girls. Two-year grants provide start-up funds for longer-term programs that address the particular needs of the community and develop girls' sense of efficacy through leadership or advocacy opportunities. Again, topic areas are unrestricted, but should include a clearly defined activity that promotes education and equity for women and girls.

Ameritech Foundation Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.ntlf.com/html/grants/6693.htm>

Description:
This foundation supports multi-state (including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) and national programs in education, regional economic development and public policy. Areas of interest include health and human services, civic and community life, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and arts and culture. Priority is given to grant requests that advance the application of technology in ways that improve these program areas.

Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools, community organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.buildabear.com/aboutUs/community/BabwFoundation.aspx>

Description:
Grants available to promote literacy and education through effective strategies, including partnering with families and equipping families to help their children develop literacy skills.

Columbus Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.columbusfoundation.org>

Description:

Columbus Foundation grants are available for early childhood, preschool, primary and secondary grades, higher education, vocational education, and continuing and adult education. Grants in this field also relate to parent training, academic enrichment, school-based support services for students, library services, community involvement in schools and adult literacy.

Comcast Foundation Grants**Type:**

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

501(c)(3) organizations in Comcast communities

To learn more:

<http://www.comcast.com/corporate/about/inthecommunity/foundation/grantcriteria.html>

Description:

The primary focus of Comcast Foundation Grants is the funding of diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership development. Only organizations operating within Comcast communities will be considered.

CVS Caremark Charitable Trust**Type:**

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

Public schools

To learn more:

http://www.cvs.com/corpInfo/community/charitable_mission.html

Description:

Grants fund health programs for children with disabilities and public schools (grades prekindergarten through 12) that are expanding programs that promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of school functions, including academic activities, extracurricular programs and physical activity/play.

Dollar General Family Literacy Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and 501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.dollargeneral.com> Click on "Community"

Description:
To be considered, programs must include four components: adult education, children's education, parent and child "together" time, and classes that teach parents to be the primary educators of their children.

Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant Program

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and libraries

To learn more:
<http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org> Click on "Programs"

Description:
The Ezra Jack Keats program offers mini-grants of \$500.00 for public schools and public libraries. Programs must promote literacy for children and families.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and parent groups

To learn more:
<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com>

Description:

Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit will be favored for Lowe's grants. Funding requests that have a permanent impact such as school facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) and landscaping/clean up will be given preference. The school building must be more than two years old.

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools

To learn more:
<http://mhjf.org/grants.html>

Description:
The foundation's Open Grants program will support innovative programs for preschool, elementary and secondary school students and their teachers. Prospective programs should ensure activity in a thematic grant category linked to the foundation's principles.

Mattel Children's Foundation Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations that benefit children

To learn more:
<http://www.mattel.com>

Description:
Awards may be made to organizations whose missions focus on direct service to children from birth to 12 years of age. Organizations or programs must show creative, innovative methods to address locally defined needs that directly affect children.

My Home Town Helper (General Mills)

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
<http://www.myhometownhelper.com>

Description:
Funds may be used for a wide variety of activities that enrich small communities.

Nord Family Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
<http://www.nordff.org>

Description:
The foundation gives grant priority to programs that address the needs of economically or socially disadvantaged families. Grants are awarded for education and to strengthen families.

Staples Foundation for Learning Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
<http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundhome.html>

Description:
The foundation funds programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

Target Arts Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
<http://sites.target.com> Click on "Community"

Description:
These grants are awarded to programs that bring the arts to schools or make it affordable for families to participate in cultural experiences.

Target Early Childhood Reading Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
<http://sites.target.com> Click on "Community"

Description:
These grants support programs that promote a love of reading and encourage children through age 9 to read together with their families.

Target Family Violence Prevention Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries or public agencies

To learn more:
<http://sites.target.com> Click on "Community"

Description:
These grants support programs that strengthen families by preventing or reducing the cycle of family violence.

Tiger Woods Foundation

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

501(c)(3) organizations in urban areas.

To learn more:

<http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/>

Description:

Grants provide funding to promote: student achievement through early education of children and their parents; programs that focus on school-to-work transitions; or plans that look at school organization and management focused on student needs, parent involvement and accountability.

Toyota Family Literacy Program Grants

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

School districts in communities with high or fast-growing Hispanic and immigrant populations

To learn more:

<http://www.familit.org/TFLP-Capability-Survey/>

Description:

As part of the Toyota Family Literacy Program, parents and children attend school together. Parents work to improve their English skills and also learn how to support their children's language and literacy development. Direct funding for school districts will allow for support, training, education materials and assistance from the National Center for Family Literacy to implement the program for students in kindergarten through third grade.

Verizon Foundation

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

501(c)(3) public charities

To learn more:

<http://foundation.verizon.com/>

Description:

The Verizon Foundation offers grants for activities promoting literacy, technology and education.

Verizon Tech Savvy Awards

Type:

Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?

501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:

<http://foundation.verizon.com/>

Description:

Verizon Tech Savvy Awards recognize programs that demystify technology for families and enable parents to better guide their children in the use of technology for learning. The awards program assists grassroots, community-based nonprofit organizations, libraries and schools to incorporate information/communications/technology literacy as a component and enhancement of literacy.

Alphabetical Index of Funding Sources

Source Title	Eligible Applicants	Page
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Schools and community agencies	6
AAA Ohio Auto Clubs Grants and Awards	Schools, students and parent groups	16
Alternative Education Challenge	Districts and community partners	14
American Association of University Women	Women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.	16
Ameritech Foundation Grants	501(c)(3) organizations	17
Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation	Schools, community organizations	17
Columbus Foundation	Tax-exempt public charities under Section 501(c)(3)	17
Comcast Foundation Grants	501(c)(3) organizations	18
CVS Caremark Charitable Trust	501(c)(3) organizations, schools	18
Dollar General Family Literacy Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, schools	19
Early Childhood Special Education (ESCE/IDEA)	School districts	6
Early Learning Initiative (Head Start)	Profit or nonprofit organizations, or public school systems	7
Early Reading First	School districts and public or private organizations	7
Even Start	School districts	8
Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant Program	Schools and libraries	19
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	School districts	8
Learn and Serve	Schools and community agencies	14
Lowe's Toolbox for Education	Schools and parent groups	19
Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grants	Schools	20
Mattel Children's Foundation Grants	Community agencies	20
Mentoring Grants	School districts, community-based organizations	9
My Home Town Helper (General Mills)	501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies	21
Nord Family Foundation	501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies	21
Parent Mentors of Ohio	School districts	15
Poverty Based Assistance	School Districts	9
Reading First	School districts	10
Safe Schools - Healthy Students Initiative	School districts	10
Staples Foundation for Learning Grants	501(c)(3) organizations	21
Target Arts Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies	22
Target Early Childhood Reading Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies	22
Target Family Violence Prevention Grants	501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies	22
Tiger Woods Foundation	501(c)(3) organizations in urban areas	23
Title I	School districts	11
Title II A (Improving Teacher Quality)	School districts	11
Title II D (Technology)	School districts	11
Title III	School districts	12
Title IV (Safe and Drug-free)	School districts	12
Title V (Innovative Programs)	School districts	13
Title VI (Rural Low Income School Program)	School districts	13
Toyota Family Literacy Program Grant Opportunity	School districts	23
Verizon Foundation	501(c)(3) <u>public</u> charities and schools	24
Verizon Tech Savvy Awards	Schools and community agencies	24