



SCIENCE OUTREACH – TEACHER RESOURCES PROGRAM

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
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ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature created the Teacher Resources Program (TRP). The program provides resources to certain Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) organizations to expand their programs in order to reach more students through the training and support of teachers. Since the creation, the TRP has grown into a permanent part of each organization’s iSEE outreach program.

Budget Detail

When the program was created, organizations participating in the iSEE program could apply for funding through the TRP. Each organization was required to demonstrate the additive nature (in terms of more students/teachers served or program quality) of their proposal. Four organizations applied for funding. Since FY 2010, the ongoing appropriation for the program has been \$417,100. Figure 1 shows the allocation of program funding by organization.

Figure 1

Science Outreach Programs			
Grant Award Amounts by Participating Organization			
iSEE & Teacher Resources Grant - FY 2016			
Organization	iSEE Grant	Teacher Resources Grant	Total
Clark Platarium	\$735,582	\$104,275	\$839,857
Discovery Gateway	173,943	104,275	278,218
Hawkwatch International	100,000		100,000
The Leonardo	474,940		474,940
The Living Planet Aquarium	570,665	104,275	674,940
Natural History Museum of Utah	595,350	104,275	699,625
Red Butte Garden	297,420		297,420
Thanksgiving Point	750,000		750,000
Total	\$3,697,900	\$417,100	\$4,115,000

Source: Utah State Board of Education, Teaching & Learning, January 2016.

Budget Recommendations

The TRP program has become an integral part of the education outreach program provided by the organizations listed in Figure 1. Program management at both the State Board of Education and within each organization could be simplified if the TRP grants were combined with each participating organization’s iSEE grant. Currently, the State Board of Education must execute and track two grant awards for each organization.

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends that the Legislature eliminate the appropriation for the Teacher Resources Program, transfer the funding to the Informal Science Education Enhancement program, and direct the State Board of Education to combine the grant amounts listed in Figure 1 to each organization’s iSEE grant award beginning in FY 2017.