

2023 Legislative Priorities Request

ORGANIZATION: Project Success Coalition (in partnership with United Way Northern Utah)

MISSION: Community learning center, working with local Ogden youth and families to celebrate arts and culture, support academic foundations and promote health and wellness.

CONTACT: “Family Read, Play & Learn Spaces” project
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BRIEF SYNOPSIS: Early childhood literacy/learning, child/parent engagement project in Ogden, Weber County, Utah. Placing white paper proven “Family Read, Play & Learn Spaces” into spaces not designed for children – yet children are present with a parent and spend on average 1-2 hours at location.

Examples of spaces are:

- Laundromats, Weber County Sheriff Office, Department of Work Force Services, Weber Morgan Health Dept., WIC, Ogden Regional Medical, which have all expressed great enthusiasm in implementing a FRPLS into their local offices.
- Weber County Library will program bi-weekly reading sessions with librarians at FRPLS’ to encourage visitation to main and branch libraries and a “warm, familiar contact” person the child/parent knows when visiting library system, creating a sense of belonging/welcome, which is particularly important to traditionally marginalized BIPOC communities.

How Can “Family Read, Play & Learn Spaces” help close the early learning gap?:

Early childhood literacy is among the most significant predictors of success in school and life. Yet, most children in poverty do not enter Kindergarten with school-ready literacy skills due to lack of book ownership and reading books aloud.

By placing “Family Read, Play & Learn” spaces – a set of high-quality tools and resources* designed to transform laundromats and government locations into playful, literary-rich spaces for children and families; we help close the early learning gap with access to books, activities, and book ownership.

Research reveals that children engage in 30 times more literacy-rich activities with these spaces than control sites.

<https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2019/march/laundromats-support-early-literacy--finds-nyu-steinhardt-profess.html>

*Lakeshore Learning is one of the nation’s most trusted providers of school learning materials/classroom supplies and furniture.

PROJECT TOTAL/AMOUNT OF FUNDING: \$74,100. (12 locations at \$5,875 + \$300. shipping from Lakeshore Learning = \$6,175. each)