



January 21, 2014

Beth Crist

Youth and Family Services Senior Consultant

Colorado Department of Education

201 E. Colfax Ave., Room 309

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Crist:

With our strong commitment to supporting early literacy initiatives in Colorado, Reach Out and Read Colorado is very pleased to partner with the Colorado State Library on its “Putting SPELL (Supporting Parents in Early Literacy through Libraries) into Action” project, especially after partnering with the project during the original SPELL research project.

Reach Out and Read Colorado (ROR CO), a nonprofit that’s part of the national Reach Out and Read® program and is the statewide Coalition of Colorado’s Reach Out and Read Sites, prepares America’s youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. The program trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric checkups from 6 months to 5 years of age with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. The 220 participating clinics in 49 Colorado counties distribute more than 157,000 developmentally and language appropriate books to more than 86,000 children annually. More than 950 medical providers have been trained in the Reach Out and Read model around the state.

Partnering with the first SPELL project allowed us to learn how to better support low-income parents in instilling early skills in their young children, starting at birth. We look forward to partnering on this second project to further our knowledge to better serve this crucial audience; it will also provide invaluable training for ROR CO clinic representatives in SPELL findings, as well as funding for public library-ROR CO collaborations.

As the project so closely supports ROR CO’s mission, we pledge to contribute a \$3,000.00 cash match towards this important early literacy and professional development endeavor. Our staff will also contribute:

- liaison support between local clinics and participating libraries
- one representative to serve on the Advisory Board
- expertise on providing early literacy messaging and support to parents

reachoutandreadco.org

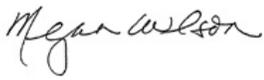
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On behalf of ROR CO, I encourage the Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund this proposal. The training and prototype projects that "Putting SPELL into Action" will create and implement will allow public libraries, ROR CO clinics, and the medical community to be even more successful in providing early literacy services in their communities.

Sincerely,



Megan Wilson
Executive Director
Reach Out and Read Colorado

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