



SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL
**CENTER FOR
 EARLY LANGUAGE
 AND LITERACY**
 AT GEORGIA COLLEGE



GET GEORGIA
 READING

Empowering Communities through Collective Impact Grants for Early Language and Literacy

Grant Award Announcement

November 28, 2018

Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy and Get Georgia Reading Campaign are pleased to announce the grant awardees for the 2018 *Empowering Communities through Collective Impact Grants for Early Language and Literacy*. The purpose of this program is to improve the early language and literacy skills of Georgia’s children, birth to age 8, by creating community coalitions to increase early language and literacy access, professional learning, awareness, and education. Systemic change requires collective impact with cross-sector collaboration. Our vision is that all children growing up in communities in Georgia have access to strong systems of family, community, and educational support in early language and literacy development so that they can be successful in school, the workforce, and life.

There are two categories of funding: Emerging and Sustaining.

Emerging projects are in the initial phase of work to establish an early language and literacy improvement plan. These projects may cultivate partners, convene, collect data, or create an early language and literacy plan. Emerging grants will be awarded in the amount of \$10,000.

Sustaining projects have a community-based early language and literacy improvement plan in place. These projects may be in the programming and evaluation stage or scaling-up proven efforts to increase early language and literacy access, professional learning, awareness, and education. Sustaining grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$30,000 to projects that improve early language and literacy development through a collective, systematic approach.

The summaries below include the applicant, project name, and a description of each program.

Applicant	United Way of Coastal Georgia
Award Type	Emerging
Award Amount	\$10,000
Project Name	Coastal Georgia Early Education Roundtable
Program Description	The Coastal Georgia Early Education Roundtable is an initiative of UWCG that brings together a cross-sector collaborative of stakeholders to focus on improving educational opportunities for children birth to age eight. With the grant funds, UWCG will develop a comprehensive Early Language and Literacy Community Plan for Glynn County. Using the Early Education Roundtable as the collective impact collaborative, they will leverage the work completed over the last several months into a larger effort throughout the community. The Georgia Center for Nonprofits (GCN) will facilitate and provide capacity building support for the Roundtable’s collective impact efforts. The grant funding will enable the Roundtable to expand its efforts to



	develop strategies around Get Georgia Reading's pillars of Language Nutrition, Positive Learning Climate, and Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness in addition to the work currently being done around the Access pillar.
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Applicant	United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley
Award Type	Emerging
Award Amount	\$10,000
Project Name	Early Learning in Columbus
Program Description	<p>Over the past two years, a cross sector of community leaders in Columbus identified goals and began to develop solutions to improve early learning and literacy outcomes. Included in this work were leaders from area school districts, colleges and universities, early childhood and out of school providers, business leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, and United Way. This group is committed to increasing the number of Quality Rated Child Care Centers, children enrolled in Pre-K programs, children who are kindergarten ready, children who are literacy proficient by the end of the first grade, and children reading on grade-level by the end of the third grade. More than 50 partners are engaged in this work.</p> <p>Early Learning in Columbus has three key goals for 2019: align partners around the common agenda, establish a shared measurement system, and increase awareness of early language and literacy. A shared measurement system will be developed with professional support of the Butler Center at Columbus State University. They will launch an awareness campaign in 2019 with two primary audiences: general community and healthcare providers. Local corporate marketing partners will support the creative design of campaign elements. Through increased awareness and partner alignment, they hope to increase knowledge about early language and literacy and the number of parents/caregivers indicating that they read at least 15 minutes per day with their child.</p>

Applicant	Quitman County Family Connection
Award Type	Emerging
Award Amount	\$10,000
Project Name	F.U.L.L. -- Families United for Language and Literacy
Program Description	<p>The Early Literacy Task Force organized by Quitman County Family Connection is committed to providing access to resources, information and activities that will engage families in the education of their children from birth to age eight. The Early Literacy Task Force brings partners together to plan and implement strategies that identify common goals shared by members and creates an evaluation method that will document the progress of the task force. Each partner brings to the table their information and shares with everyone. The goal is to create one message that literacy is important at every age and level.</p> <p>The task force will support the local school system in their efforts to provide a quality education by bringing partners together to meet the emotional, behavioral and academic needs for each child to succeed in school. The</p>



	task force will address this by forming a partnership with the local mental health service provider, Quitman County Schools and the local Enrichment Services Program to create an assessment that will assist in identifying any delays in behavioral and developmental areas. This partnership will touch children in the Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K and elementary students. Elementary age students will also benefit from the presence of a mental health service counselor to work with students on a variety of issues. This will eliminate the strain on the current school counselor by freeing her up to focus more on the academic needs of students as was originally intended.
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Applicant	Cook County Family Connection
Award Type	Sustaining
Award Amount	\$30,000
Project Name	Cook County Literacy Initiative
Program Description	Cook County Family Connection will lead the creation and development of a diverse Cook County Literacy Team which will serve as the community hub for early language and literacy efforts. While all 40 collaborative partners will be engaged in various aspects of all efforts, the new Literacy Team will serve as the steering committee charged with researching proven practices, developing new strategies, and securing resources and funding to support collaborative literacy efforts. During Summer 2018, Cook County partners followed the collective impact framework to develop a formal literacy improvement plan which includes evidence-based strategies such as lobby library projects, book distribution events, literacy trainings, a robust media and marketing campaign, parent education, and family literacy events.

Applicant	United Way of Greater Atlanta
Award Type	Sustaining
Award Amount	\$30,000
Project Name	Learning Spaces: A Community Partners Approach to High Quality Language-Rich Early Childhood Experiences
Program Description	Learning Spaces (LS) is a community-based partnership initiative that offers high quality early learning experiences to very young children (0-5) not connected to formal early childhood programs by engaging with the families, friends or neighbors who care for them. Through partnerships at the community level, LS provides a pathway for caregivers to become high quality early care providers. Through collaboration with local libraries, early childhood organizations, and community engagement partners, LS offers a rich learning experience for children and their caregivers in non-traditional spaces. In this model, LS teams travel to places within communities where they set up and facilitate a high quality experience for children and their caregivers. LS curriculum and activities focus on healthy child development with a heavy emphasis on language development and literacy. Grant funding will enable LS partners to bring LS to 2 communities that are not currently served through either a mobile unit or a new stationary site depending on the community assets.

