Berkshire Reading Council – Dr. Seuss Night
On-going Project
Council President / Project Applicant: Catherine Salvini

Summary of Project: Council members read aloud / act out various Dr. Seuss books; a visit by ‘The Cat in the Hat’, serving of Green Eggs & Ham; distribution of Dr. Seuss books to each child in attendance. This project is designed to encourage the love of literature through read-alouds and promote reading at home through distribution of free books to family members attending. It is anticipated that 4 to 8 local council members will be involved in the project (Date 3/14/17). An estimated 75 - 150 children of Berkshire County, MA will benefit from this project.

Itemized Budget: Books for Distribution $425 Food/Paper Products $75 **Budget: $500**

Cape Cod Reading Council – Multicultural Books for Child Development Preschool Classrooms
Ongoing Project
Council President: Mary Wall    Project Applicant: Nancy Meagher

Summary of Project: The Council will support family literacy for low-income families and children who are at high risk by providing books to the Cape Cod Child Development Program of Hyannis. Children range in age from three years to five years old in the Preschool Program. Many of the 377 students in 27 classrooms speak English as a second language. Multicultural, Vocabulary, and Language Development books would be the area of focus. Last year, CCCILA was able to match the MRA Minigrant and purchased three books of the ten on their Wish List for each classroom. This year, CCCILA would use the funds to add two to three more of these ten books to the 27 Child Development Classroom Libraries. CCCILA would purchase the books in early May and deliver one day in late May, with 10 – 15 CCCILA members visiting the classrooms to read to the children. Fifteen members of CCCILA will participate. Approximately 350 – 400 students will benefit from this project. **Budget: $500**

Central Massachusetts Reading Council - Helping Children in Need
New Project
Council President: Lisa Murphy Project Applicant: Jill Guimond

Summary of Project: This project will provide good literature and support literacy through book donations to children of homeless families. Children’s literature will be carefully selected to meet the interest of children from the very young infants to the teenage years. This project will provide children’s books to families who find themselves homeless and are presently residing in safe houses in Worcester, Massachusetts. There are two residences that would benefit from this project. They are Ives House and The Village. The children range in age from infant to 18 years of age. All of the families with children who reside at THE VILLAGE (currently 39 families) will have greater access to books and magazines with the help of this project. Two members of Central Mass Reading Council will be involved in the selection, purchase, and delivery of these books to both residences (Ives House and The Village). **Budget: $500**

Greater Boston Reading Council – Character Breakfast
On-going Project
Council President: Jean Helstrom Project Applicant: Judith Jango-Cohen

Summary of Project: On Saturday March 18, 2017, the Greater Boston Reading Council will host a Character Breakfast at the McGlynn Elementary School in Medford, MA. The event is held in collaboration with the Medford Family Network, which will serve breakfast, advertise, and manage the sign-up list. When families arrive, they will be treated to a Curious George themed breakfast. Then they will participate in the various activities, including coloring, dot-to-dot, word puzzles, floor
puzzles, face painting, and arts & crafts projects related to literacy. They will also listen to stories read aloud and engage in music & movement activities. Families may also choose to have their photo taken with Curious George. Parents will return home with a packet of literacy information and children will return home with a book of their choosing, poems, and the literacy-related projects they created. Council members will also be available to answer any literacy questions parents may have. Approximately ten Greater Boston Council members will participate. This project will serve about 85 families connected with the Medford Family Network. Approximately 250 people will benefit. About 125 participants will be children and about 125 will be accompanying adults. **Budget: $500**

**Massachusetts Association of College and University Reading Educators - Libros para Niños y Familias (Books for Children & Families): Promoting Family Literacy in Nicaragua**

**Ongoing Project**

**Council President:** Dr. Martha Colwell

**Project Applicant:** Dr. Jennifer Manak

**Summary of Project:** Jenn Manak, Associate Professor at Bridgewater State University, will be supporting literacy education in Nicaragua through teacher professional development. As part of this larger project providing literacy professional development for primary school teachers in five rural and two urban schools in Nicaragua, this project will promote family literacy by sharing authentic children’s literature and best practices for reading aloud with the families at these primary schools. MACURE proposes to support the Family Literacy aspect of this project by supporting the purchase of authentic children’s literature to share with the children attending these schools. This project will involve Jenn Manak who has been a MACURE board member for over eight years. She plans to present an update regarding this family literacy project, Books for Children & Families: Promoting Family Literacy in Nicaragua, at a MACURE General Meeting. This project will serve the children and families that attend five public primary schools in the rural department of Matagalpa in Nicaragua. The families from these rural communities often live and work on farms and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The students who attend rural schools are typically taught in multiage classrooms (1st-6th grade) with minimal resources. This project will immediately benefit approximately 100 rural Nicaraguan children and their families. The family literacy handouts and other resources given to the primary schools will benefit additional children and families for years to come. **Budget: $500**

**Merrimack Valley Regional Reading Council – “Come Read with Me”**

**Ongoing Project**

**Council President:** Katherine Covino

**Project Applicant:** Karen Herbaugh

**Summary of Project:** The MVRRRC Minigrant is designed to supply families who have children staying overnight in the pediatric wing of the Lowell General Hospital, books to read to their children while recovering. The books will then be taken home with the child at discharge, promoting literacy in the home. This year the staff has requested more board books and books for very young children. By matching the grant with individual contributions, we hope to reach at least 100 children and their family members. The whole council will continue to be involved through individual member contributions at various local events throughout the year. Approximately 100 families in the Greater Merrimack Valley will benefit. **Budget: $500**

**Nobscot Reading Council – Project – Ready to Read**

**Ongoing Project**

**Council President:** Constance Ward

**Project Applicant:** Valerie Hytholt

**Summary of Project:** Nobscot Reading Council’s minigrant project will support the Ready to Read program of the United Way of Tri-County’s efforts to promote reading by providing new books each month for children from birth to kindergarten. The United Way partners with the Framingham and Milford Housing Authorities to ensure that new books reach children who are in need of receiving support during their early years. An important goal of the Ready to Read program is to increase the number of families reading with their children as well as encouraging families to read for a longer period of time each day. The program nurtures the love of reading by providing books for children and literacy skills and confidence for parents. In addition, the Nobscot Reading Council members will read with the children and their families at the Ready to Read Family Nights special events held four times each year at the Framingham and Milford Housing Authority properties. At least 20 council members will be involved with the Ready to Read Program and will read at program events. The number of individuals benefiting is difficult to determine for this mini-grant project. From the number of books purchased with $500 Minigrant funds, the project directly supports 20 children receiving new books each month; however, when the children and their families read the books together, the number of individuals who benefit increases. In addition, the United Way of Tri-County has obtained donations of books for older readers in kindergarten through high school to give to older siblings to take home and read when they accompany their younger family members at the family night events. **Budget: $500**
Phyllis Allen Smith North Shore Reading Council – Project - *Literacy Project for the Shelter Inn and Inn Between*

**New Initiative**

Council President / Project Applicant: Cecilia Phelan  

**Summary of project:**

This council project is designed to assist students / families in transition from homeless to home by providing materials for students to maintain reading and math skills. The materials purchased will provide updated readers and consumable materials that are currently not in the budget. This donation will assist the Shelter by providing continued assistance to its clients. PAS has supported the Shelter Inn and Inn Between for a number of years. The grant would provide for updated materials and supplies to assist students with homework, build reading skills, and maintain a positive school environment. The membership of Phyllis Allen Smith North Shore Reading Council supports this endeavor by contributing books and materials to the Shelter Inn and Inn Between. The Shelter serves clients on the North Shore particularly in Salem and its surrounding cities and towns. The number of clients would vary depending upon the need. The children would mostly be Kindergarten through Grade 5. These materials would provide additional reinforcement of skills that have been taught. It would assist the staff with materials that otherwise would not be available. **Budget: $500**

Southeast Regional Reading Council (SERRC) – *SERRC Member Initiated Project to Promote Literacy*

**New Initiative**

Council President: Jan Standring  

Project Applicants: Susan Bergstrand and Patricia Texeira  

**Summary of Project:** This project is designed to celebrate SERRC’s 30th year as a council. SERRC would like its members to have the opportunity to benefit from the MRA Minigrant. Members will submit a proposal to the SERRC Board that will benefit their classroom or school in the effort to enhance the literacy process. The Minigrant will supply books or other reading materials to enhance the literacy process. The board, along with the Minigrant Chairs, will select the proposal to be awarded. Proposals for PreK through Grade 8 will be considered. The award recipient(s) must submit a copy of their purchase order to the SERRC Board for review prior to purchasing materials. Once approved, the recipient(s) will receive a check for the exact purchase amount. All 125 members of SERRC will be involved. The population and individuals benefit from this project will be determined once the application process and approval of project is complete. **Budget: $500**