Library Name: CSUMB Tanimura and Antle Family Memorial Library

Project Title: Monterey County Juvenile Hall Book Club: “Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism”

Select category you are applying under:

X Category A: Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant

☐ Category B: Grant Replication Program

If Category B is selected, enter the name of the grant you are replicating:

1. Please provide a one paragraph project summary.

Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism provides a monthly book club for youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall to promote literacy, lifelong learning, and reduce juvenile recidivism rates in Monterey County. This program provides incarcerated youth the opportunity to participate in reading, transformative discussion, critical thinking, creativity, art, and creative writing and reflection. In addition, this program targets moderate to high risk youth with a focus on those from disadvantaged and underserved communities. Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism is essential to support equitable access to information as youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall lack access to computers, technology, and the Internet.

2. Explain how this project fits with the library’s strategic directions.

CSUMB Library Mission and Values

Mission

The CSUMB Library provides information resources, user-centered services, and an inviting, collaborative environment to foster intellectual curiosity, sustain scholarship and creativity, and inspire lifelong learning for the diverse community we serve. Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism meets the mission of the CSUMB library by focusing on fostering intellectual curiosity and inspiring lifelong learning for the diverse community the library serves.

Values

Access
• *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* offers incarcerated youth the opportunity to access books, art activities, participate in meaningful discussions, and use critical thinking and reflection related to academic, intellectual, and creative endeavors.

**Learning**

• *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* celebrates inquiry, critical thinking, and the pursuit of knowledge to develop deeper understanding by reading, creative writing, creating art, and fostering transformative conversations among the youth.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

• *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* strives for fairness and equity of access to information for all patrons of different backgrounds and identities.

**Service to the Greater Community**

• *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* helps incarcerated youth to improve their knowledge, educational levels, literacy skills, and build empathy for others, all which ultimately lead to greater opportunities to find employment or attend higher education after their release, reducing recidivism rates in Monterey County and contributing to the greater good.

**Intellectual Inquiry**

• *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* encourages intellectual inquiry of individuals, by assisting incarcerated youth in the development of literacy skills, creativity, and personal expression.

**CSUMB Founding Vision Statement**

*Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* directly supports CSUMB’s Founding Vision Statement by serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically undereducated and low-income populations.

3. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the population served and the demographics of that population.

Reading is a transformational tool for personal growth and development for youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall. Reading helps incarcerated youth to improve their knowledge, educational levels, literacy skills, creativity, oral communication, and build empathy for others, all which ultimately lead to greater opportunities to find employment or attend college or trade school after their release, reducing recidivism rates in Monterey County.

As a strategy to promote literacy, lifelong learning, and reduce youth recidivism rates in Monterey County, the monthly book club provides youth with literacy support and instruction,
facilitates transformative discussion, and inspires youth to use critical thinking, creativity, art, and written reflection. The book club meets twice monthly and books range in a variety of genres with connections to real world issues, which allow the youth to engage in discussion and reflection. In addition to reading, youth are encouraged to write poems, short stories, or other types of “free writes” or reflection based on discussion questions related to the materials. As reading levels greatly vary, youth are encouraged to draw or create art if they cannot read or write.

*Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* serves youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall. The demographics of this population are ages 15-21 and all participants are Hispanic or Latinx and bilingual in English and Spanish. This project targets moderate to high risk youth with a focus on those from disadvantaged and underserved communities. Currently, youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall do not have access to technology, computers, and the Internet.

4. What are the goals and objectives of the project?

**Goals**

Research shows that recidivism rates of juvenile offenders are highly impacted by low levels of academic performance and achievement.\(^1\) To counter high recidivism rates of juvenile offenders, studies show that reading is an academic intervention that can successfully reduce recidivism in juvenile offenders.\(^2\) As a result, the goal of *Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* is to reduce recidivism rates of youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall by implementing reading as an academic intervention.

**Objectives**

*Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* increases equity of access to information and books for youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall.

*Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* facilitates transformational conversations and opportunities for reflection and personal growth among youth incarcerated at Monterey County Juvenile Hall.

*Reading Together to Reduce Recidivism* expands CSUMB library’s services to the greater community by serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically undereducated and low-income populations in the Tri-county area.

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\(^1\) Antonis Katsiyannis, Joseph B. Ryan, Dalun Zhang & Anastasia Spann (2008) Juvenile Delinquency and Recidivism: The Impact of Academic Achievement, Reading & Writing Quarterly, 24:2, 177-196, DOI: 10.1080/10573560701808460

\(^2\) Ibid.
5. Please include your project timeline (include detail of activities).

Fall 2023-Spring 2023

- **September 2023**
  - Purchase book club books for September, October, and November
  - Purchase supplies as needed
  - Create September book club lesson plan
    - 2 book club meetings in September
    - Solicit feedback from youth
    - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Begin to purchase new books for library collection

- **October 2023**
  - Create October book club lesson plan
    - 2 book club meetings in October
    - Solicit feedback from youth
    - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Continue to purchase new books for library collection
  - Purchase supplies as needed

- **November 2023**
  - Create November book club lesson plan
    - 2 book club meetings in November
    - Solicit feedback from youth
    - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Purchase book club books for December, January, February
  - Purchase supplies as needed
  - Complete purchasing of new books for library collection
    - Begin organizing new books in library

- **December 2023**
  - Create December book club lesson plan
    - 2 book club meetings in December
    - Solicit feedback from youth
    - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Continue organizing new books in library
  - Purchase supplies as needed

- **January 2023**
  - Create January book club lesson plan
- 2 book club meetings in January
- Solicit feedback from youth
- Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Finalize organizing new books in library
  - Purchase supplies as needed

**February 2023**
- Create February book club lesson plan
  - 2 book club meetings in February
  - Solicit feedback from youth
  - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Purchase book club books for March, April, May, and June
  - Purchase supplies as needed

**March 2023**
- Create March book club lesson plan
  - 2 book club meetings in March
  - Solicit feedback from youth
  - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Purchase supplies as needed

**April 2023**
- Create April book club lesson plan
  - 2 book club meetings in April
  - Solicit feedback from youth
  - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Begin to compile and analyze data

**May 2023**
- Create May book club lesson plan
  - 2 book club meetings in May
  - Solicit feedback from youth
  - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Continue to compile and analyze data

**June 2023**
- Create June book club lesson plan
  - 2 book club meetings in June
  - Solicit feedback from youth
  - Capture photos of youth art or creative writing
  - Finalize data analysis
  - Complete PLP grant report and summary
  - Modify and revise any lesson plans or activities for next iteration or replication
6. Please indicate how you will evaluate the success of your project.

**Qualitative data** will be collected through feedback surveys and focus groups about participant experience. Details about lesson plans, books, tools, materials, and any insights or lessons learned will be recorded and incorporated for improvement to the project. Images or examples of creative writing or art projects will be collected and available as examples for future replication.

Feedback from youth will be collected monthly after completion of both book club meetings. As a result, feedback from youth will be implemented in future lesson plans for book club meetings and activities. Final assessment will be conducted during the months of May and June.

7. Please detail your project budget. (Note: Indirect costs are not allowed).

**Monthly book club books:** The project needs 16 copies or more of one (paperback, graphic novel, color) book per month (16+ incarcerated youth). Due to reading levels ranging from first grade to high school, there is a need for graphic novels that include reading and art or color images, so that youth of all reading levels can engage with the books. **Amount needed= $4,000**

**Supplies:** The project needs notebooks, drawing paper, colored pencils, pencils, markers, etc. These supplies are needed to facilitate lesson plans to relate reading and writing to art. Some youth struggle to read or cannot read, so using these materials to draw or create art will allow them to engage with the materials. **Amount needed= $1,500**

**New books for library:** Due to the lack of resources at Monterey County Juvenile Hall, the project requests funds to purchase books for their library. The youth are interested in books on the following topics/genres: young adult fiction, educational, self-help, memoirs and autobiographies, financial literacy, spirituality, college readiness, career readiness, parenting, poetry, love stories, and creative writing books. **Amount needed= $3,000**

**Total Project Cost= $8,500**

8. Please indicate how the project will be sustained after the grant term is over.

To sustain the project, I hope to partner with the CSUMB Service Learning department and CSUMB Basic Needs Initiative to hold a book drive on campus to collect book donations. This will be a great way to spread the word about the project and generate campus and community support. In addition, I will apply for grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, and the American Library Associations’ Great Book Giveaway Competition and Great Stories Club.
Complete Only for Category B Grants:

9. Explain what grant was selected to replicate and why.

10. If there are changes or enhancements to the original grant, including budgetary changes, please detail the changes and your rationale for making them.