Library Name: San Bruno Public Library

Project Title: Read to Me: Assistive Reading Devices

Select category you are applying under:

☒ 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.

At the San Bruno Public Library, our current in-house offerings for people who have visual difficulties are limited to large print books, braille books for youth and books on CD. These items are limited to the constraints of available shelf space and available funds. These items are limited to specific titles, thus limiting the variety of reads available to users. Having an alternative solution to provide more titles to visually impaired users is needed. With the purchase of two portable LyriQ Assistive Text-to-Speech Readers, the Library can open up a much wider range of printed items in our collection to the visually impaired.

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

"Utilization of modern technology” and a “responsiveness to the community,” are factors that anchor the Library’s mission statement. An integral part of this mission is to provide the public with the most effective methods and resources to maximize the learning experience, which includes appropriate, up-to-date technology. By circulating assistive reading reader devices, the Library would be able to provide the community with technology to assist the visually impaired. Many patrons in need of this technology are not able to afford the cost.

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

Visual assistive device kits will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the Library. These kits will be marketed toward people who are visually impaired, including homebound patrons, who also often have visual difficulties.

Each kit contains a LyriQ Assistive Text-to-Speech Reader, which cost $1960 each pre-tax. The device will be circulated in a protective case, along with any needed accessories and
instructional brochures for operation. These types of devices are not currently available for checkout at the California Braille and Talking Book Library. We will provide information on the California Braille and Talking Books Library in each device kit and within the Library to ensure that patrons are aware of services available to them from the California Braille and Talking Books Library, if they qualify.

The LyriQ is an automatic scan text to speech reader. As long as the print book fits on the approximately 12” x 12” scanner, the written contents are immediately scanned and read aloud. It can also read and speak other languages. It can read a book, an envelope, letter, prescription label, and any other written material. The device weighs only 3 pounds and folds flat for easy portability and is about the size of a standard laptop. This device is targeted toward users who want to read but have trouble when printed items are magnified.

At a cost of nearly two thousand dollars for a LyriQ, many members of our community are unable to afford the expense of purchasing a visual assisted device, particularly in these current economic times. San Bruno is a middle-class community with a population of approximately 43,000 with significant low-income areas. Daily, the Library serves a community of need which is evidenced by the free and reduced lunch qualifying student percentages of the nearest elementary schools: Belle Air and Allen, 29% and 31% respectively (California Department of Education, 2023). The LyriQ visual assisted device will complement other items, such as air quality monitors and written informational material, in our health resources collection.

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

Goal 1: Distribute visual assistive device kits via first come, first serve at the Library.
   • Objective 1a: Acquire visual assistive devices.
   • Objective 1b: Prepare device kits for check-out.
   • Objective 1c: Market availability of devices to patrons, especially to homebound patrons.
   • Objective 1d: Evaluate the project.

Goal 2: Increase the quality of life of users of the visual assistive device kits.
   • Objective 2a: User is able to successfully use visual assistive device on their own.
   • Objective 2b: Distribute survey to determine what borrowers learned and whether they feel they have had a quality-of-life improvement in using the visual assistive device kit.
   • Objective 2c: Provide users information on the California Braille and Talking Book Library’s services to further see if there are any other services they qualify for.
5. Please include your project timeline (include detail of activities).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>MONTH(S)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquire LyriQ Assistive Reader devices and protective cases for device</td>
<td>September 2023 – October 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package device kits for circulation</td>
<td>October 2023 - November 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train staff to be familiar with the kit to be able to assist patrons</td>
<td>November 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch program and promote the kits</td>
<td>December 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation of assistive reader device kits and distribute survey evaluations to patrons who check them out</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare final report</td>
<td>June 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Please indicate how you will evaluate success of your project.

Library staff will evaluate the project with outcomes measurement surveys that are standardized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Each kit loaned will be accompanied by a survey (printed and also available online on our Library website) which will be collected when the device is returned. In our survey, we will ask borrowers what they have learned and how their quality of life has improved by using this device.

We will also track the circulation numbers of the visual assistive reader device kits.

Project success will be determined by how well the project goals/outcomes are met.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM(S)</th>
<th>COST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2 qty) LyriQ Assistive Reader devices, with tax and shipping</td>
<td>$4447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 qty) Protective cases for device kit</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM PLP</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4497</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

We will continue to market and circulate the visual assistive reader device kits after the grant term is over. We will replace defective devices through funds from the Library’s Friends of the Library group. Depending on demand, future funding will also be considered for additional visual assistive reader devices through the Library’s Friends of the Library group.