

Informational Webinar Jan. 10, 2024

# MT Reads Grant Staff

Project Director:

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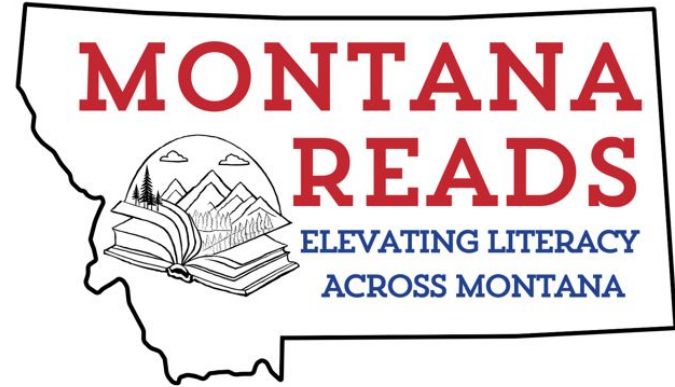
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2 Literacy Grant Specialists: Coming soon

Supporting Leadership:

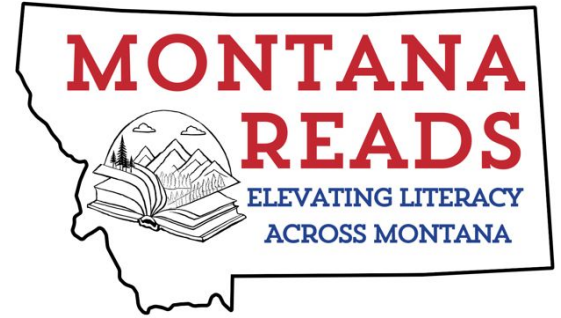
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# Webinar Objectives

- MT Reads Purpose and Goals
- Grant Activities and Allowable Uses of Funds
- Participation Requirements
- Application Process
- Timeline



## Purpose

The purpose of the Montana Reads Grant is to advance the literacy skills of student through the use of evidence-based practices, activities and interventions, by training school leaders and leadership teams in implementation science, providing teachers a background in scientifically based reading instruction, and strengthening systems at both the state and district levels to increase collaboration and sustainability.

# MT Reads Goals

1

**Identify and build the capacity of districts serving the highest percentage of disadvantaged students in the state to accelerate their literacy outcomes.**

2

**Increase the number of disadvantaged students who have access to effective educators prepared to implement and sustain scientifically based reading instruction.**

3

**Strengthen systems at both the SEA and LEA levels to provide and implement high-quality evidence-based literacy instruction**

# In practical terms...

This grant aims to help you:

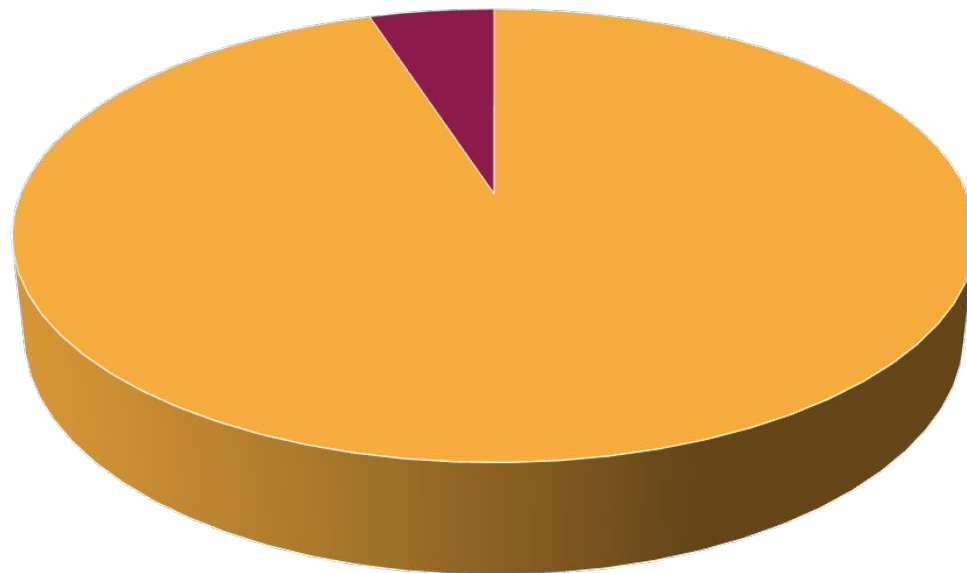
Develop effective systems and structures for implementation and sustainability

Support staff to be the most effective they can be through professional development and instructional support

Purchase instructional materials for all students in all tiers of instruction

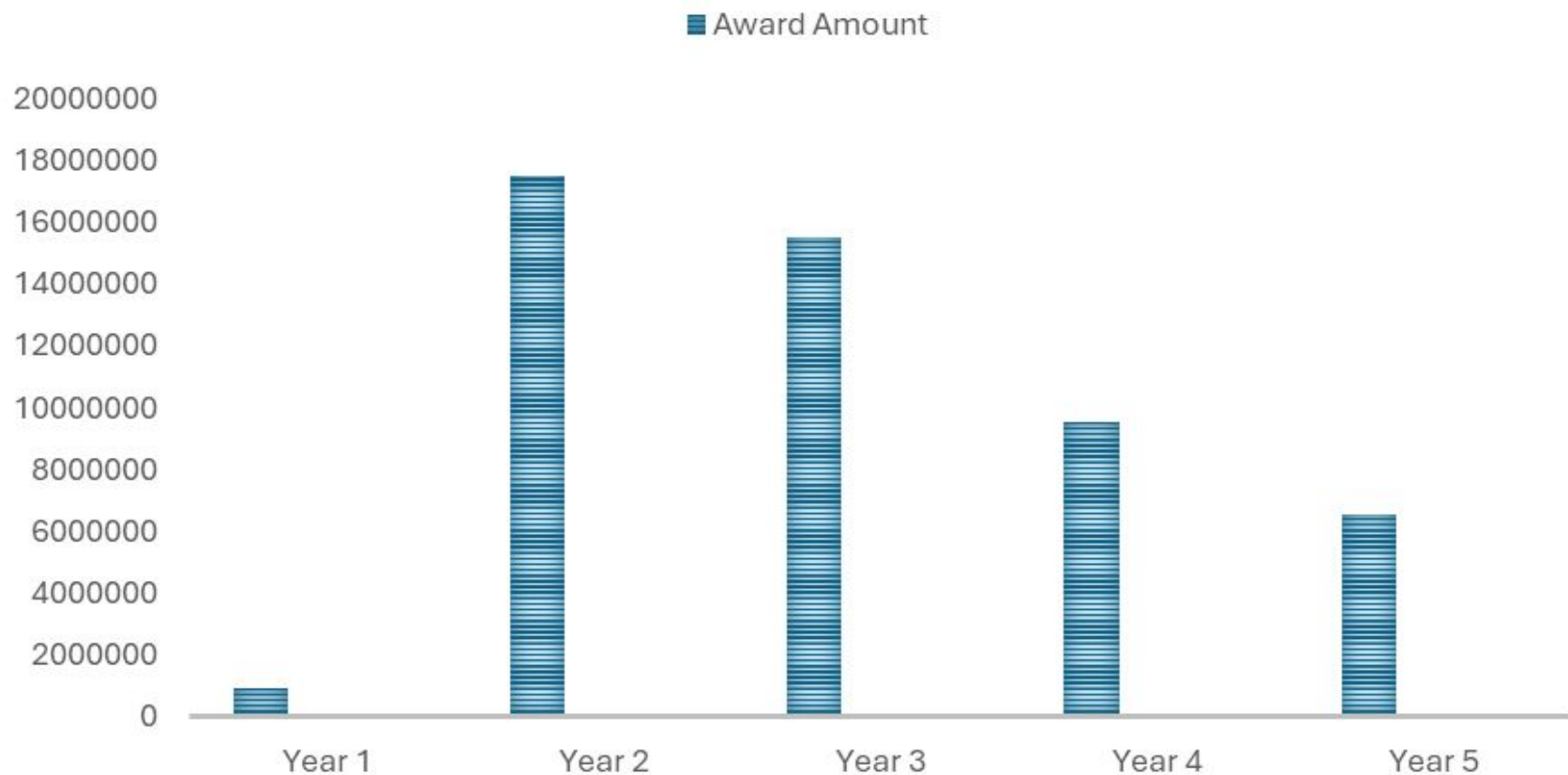
# Funding

Funding Distribution



■ Districts ■ OPI

# 5 YEAR FUNDING PLAN





# Subaward Budgets

There will be an entire webinar to help you develop your budget

However

Smallest districts in previous grant received \$250,000 per year.

Largest districts received \$600,000 per year.

We will include maximum award amounts based on the size of your district and provide guidance on how to budget for each year based on the funding plan presented in the previous slide.

# Required Grade-Span Breakdown

There is a federal requirement of a 15/40/40 split in awarded funding

15% must be spent on children prior to entering Kindergarten (birth - PreK)

40% must be spend on elementary students (K-5)

40% must be spent on secondary students (6-12)

# Required Activities

## Participation in the Literacy Leadership Network

- Professional Development in Implementation Science
- MTSS review and plan
- Curriculum audit
- Collaboration to strengthen systems and ensure sustainability
- Creation of a Local Literacy Plan

## Provide PD in the Science of Reading

- Districts can select PD to train all staff in SOR

## Implementation and sustainability of PD

- Instructional coaching or mentoring

## Participation in Communities of Practice

- Attend CoPs throughout the year focused on different underserved populations

# Implementation Requirements

- Fund entire grade span from 15% PreK, 40% Elementary & 40% Secondary
- Assess the oral language development of PreK students using a screener selected from the list of [Approved Evaluation Methodology Tools](#) for 4 year olds and submit to external evaluator
- Assess K-2 students with an evidence based Literacy Screener and submit to external evaluator
- Develop a plan to measure implementation and progress toward goals
- Monthly (7 months during school year) progress reports submitted through qualtrics
- End of Year Presentation showing progress toward goals and plans for the next year
- Staff participation in end of year evaluation surveys
- Yearly Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Administration agrees to be available for grant monitoring visits.

# Allowable Uses of Funds

- High Quality, evidence based instructional materials
- Professional Development aligned to your grant goals
- Stipends for PD or planning related to goals and takes place outside of contract hours
- Costs associated with travel and activities in the Literacy Leadership Network
- Salary for instructional coach
- Any costs associated with coaching or mentoring

*Please note this grant follows the supplement-not-supplant requirement. Section 2301 of the ESEA provides that funds made available under this program must be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for program activities.*

# Use of funds requiring pre-approval

- Technology
  - While some technology is allowable using these grant funds, the use of the technology must be directly aligned with grant goals and have a specific grant purpose.
- Out of state travel for professional development

# WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF READING?

The **science of reading** is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing.

This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.

# WHAT THE SCIENCE OF READING IS NOT

An ideology or philosophy

A fad, trend, new idea, or pendulum swing

A political agenda

A one-size-fits-all approach

A program of instruction

A single, specific component of instruction, such as phonics



This definition comes from The Reading League. More information can be found in their Defining Guide.

Free to download from the Reading League website.



**The science of reading is derived from researchers from multiple fields:**

- Cognitive Psychology
- Communication Sciences
- Developmental Psychology
- Education
- Implementation Science
- Linguistics
- Neuroscience
- School Psychology

# Application Process

Notice of Intent to Apply - Due Feb. 1

Subgrant Applications will be submitted through Qualtrics

Due March 14th.

# Application Sections

Part 1: Need for the Project

Part 2: Comprehensive Literacy Implementation Plan

Part 3: Coordination with Early Childhood and After-School Programs

Part 4: Family and Community Involvement

Part 5: Professional Development Plan

Part 6: Early Childhood Programs

Part 7: Budget & Budget Narrative

# Priority Points

Priority 1:

Are you new to Montana Literacy Grants?

Priority 2:

Do you meet any of the following demographic criteria?

Schools with high percentages of American Indian students (>50%)

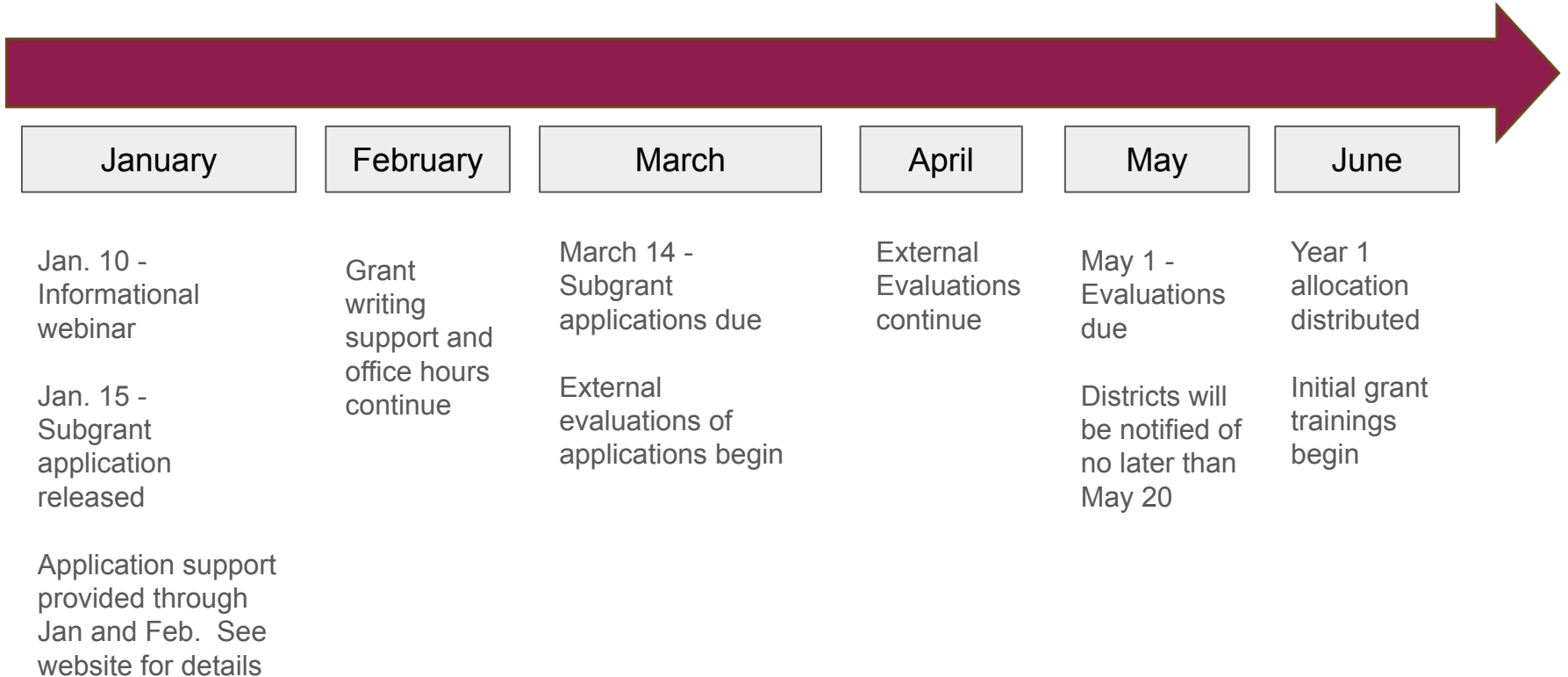
Schools with high percentages of students with disabilities (>12%)

Schools with high percentages of English Learners (>3%)

# Next Steps

1. Discuss the grant possibilities and requirements with school staff and board
  - a. Signatures will need to be included in the application
2. Put together a grant writing team
3. Consider your most recent Comprehensive Needs Assessment...is it still fairly accurate or should it be updated?
4. Think about the work done through the Accreditation process last year, what can be applied to this application and what might you need to collect?
5. Think about the things you would most need from this grant, what data do you need to collect to establish a documented need.

# Timeline



# Questions?

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