



Early Literacy Grant Proposals

Linking Families and Communities (LFC) seeks to strengthen community connections, promote a love of reading, and encourage early language development in children ages 0–5.

Libraries play a vital role as community hubs where families gather, access resources, and build connections. To support this important work, LFC is inviting proposals from libraries in Calhoun, Pocahontas, and Webster Counties, Iowa that wish to create or expand early literacy programs for young children and their families.

Purpose of the Grant

The primary goal of this grant is to engage children and their parents/guardians in daily reading, interactive storytelling, and other language-building activities that increase both the frequency and quality of early literacy experiences at home. The secondary goal is to encourage community connections and knowledge of resources.

As part of this effort, LFC requires:

- Each participating child (ages 0–5) receives a free, age-appropriate book to take home and keep to reinforce the importance of daily reading and building a personal home library.
- Publicity of the program is shared with community partners and LFC at least one week prior to the event/program.
- Fiscal sponsorship of the event is attributed to LFC and our logo is used on print & social media.
- Surveys of participants in order to collect data as required under **Reporting Requirements**.

Reporting Requirements

At the conclusion of the program, successful grantees will be required to submit a brief report by June 30, 2026 that includes:

- Number of children served.
- Number of children served ages 0–5, reported by single year of age (*e.g., number of infants 0–11 months, number of 1-year-olds, etc.*).
- Number of families participating.
- Number of families reporting an increase in reading to their child daily.
- Number of families reporting an increase in talking with their child about new words in stories.

Application Process

Libraries interested in applying should complete the attached application form and submit it by email or mail no later than November 3, 2025 to:

Email: estanek@linking-families.com

Mail: Linking Families and Communities
822 Central Avenue, Suite 300
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Important Dates

Proposals Due: November 3, 2025
Grants Awarded: December 15, 2025

Program Complete: June 1, 2026
Reports Due: June 30, 2026

Questions?

Contact: Elizabeth Stanek by email: estanek@linking-families.com or call: (515) 955-5437.