

# Support Early Childhood Literacy Initiatives in FY25

## Fund the "Innovative Approaches to Literacy" Grant Program

**SIGN-ON DEADLINE: TBD**

Programmatic Request | Submission instructions will be available at a later date

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the letter below to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to request **\$50 million in funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program**. IAL is administered through the Department of Education and authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, awarding competitive grants to national not-for-profit organizations, school libraries, and local educational authorities to provide books, 21st-century high-quality childhood literacy activities and materials, and evidenced-based technological integration and family/parental engagement programming to children and families in high-need communities.

This competitive grant program was established during the FY12 appropriations process through a member language request. In the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act, IAL was codified as an authorized program and is currently funded at \$30 million. Since its inception, more than 200 IAL grants have been awarded to national non-profit organizations and school districts across every region of the United States. For a complete listing of the grantees, please visit <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/well-rounded-education-programs/innovative-approaches-to-literacy/awards/>.

Unfortunately, far too many children in poverty face prohibitive barriers to access age-appropriate, high-quality reading materials and adequate learning facilities. Two-thirds of children living in poverty have no books at home, hindering their ability to learn critical reading skills, fostering chronic disadvantages for already underserved youth. The COVID-19 pandemic learning loss has only exasperated this situation even further over the past two years.

By providing funding for age-appropriate book distribution, early literacy services, technological integration and support for literacy activities, professional development for educators, culturally

responsive literacy workshops for parents/families, and effective school library programs, the IAL program helps to ensure that children enter school ready to learn and best positioned for success.

We ask you to increase funding for this important investment in the Fiscal Year 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

**To sign on, please follow this [Quill link](#). If you have any questions, contact Bella Edo ([isabella.edo@mail.house.gov](mailto:isabella.edo@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Jim McGovern's office or Jeff Kratz ([jeff.kratz@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeff.kratz@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Don Bacon's office. Thank you for your support!**

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern

Member of Congress

Don Bacon

Member of Congress