Humanities Washington is currently offering $25,000 (and more) for libraries to produce Prime Time Family Reading programs!

In response to pandemic learning loss, Prime Time Family Reading—an innovative reading and discussion program—is expanding throughout the state. For libraries, this means financial support and resources to hold Prime Time series in your community.

To build a foundation for reading that will last a lifetime, the Prime Time Family Reading program helps families dig deeper into the big ideas in children’s literature, inspiring them to read, connect, discuss, and learn together.

“What Prime Time Family Reading has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding opportunities I have experienced in the 10 years I have been a children’s librarian.” – Washington State Librarian

“Pandemic Learning Loss” threatens to follow many children for the rest of their lives unless there is immediate intervention.

- ONLY 52% OF STUDENTS IN THE STATE NOW MEET READING STANDARDS.

What is Prime Time?
- A fun, six-week reading program for children and their families
- A solution to pandemic-related learning loss
- Proven to boost literacy
- Easy to implement
- Helps families become regular library users
- Available in a bilingual format

PRIME TIME serves families with elementary-school-aged children who may be struggling with reading.

During six weekly sessions held in the evenings at public libraries or online, between 15 and 25 families read stories together with a storyteller and discussion leader, and then talk about big ideas and how they connect to weekly themes, such as compassion, truth, justice, and empathy.
Prime Time is a proven success. In surveys of participating families, an incredible:

- 95% increased the amount of time they read together
- 93% experienced a positive change in their attitudes toward reading
- 97% are now more likely to use library services

“We librarians all believe in the importance of Prime Time and think that it makes a big difference for families.” — WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARIAN

What libraries get:

- One or more of the following levels of financial support:* 
  - $25,000 to produce three in-person Prime Time series.
  - $10,000 to produce two online Prime Time series.
  - $8,300 to produce one in-person Prime Time series (for smaller libraries).
- Team member training.
- Access to curriculum materials.
- Access to experienced Humanities Washington staff.

*All Washington State public libraries are eligible to apply, and can combine these options in any configuration for additional programs. For example, a library system may apply for both a $10,000 online grant and a $25,000 three-series grant in the same application, or a $25,000 three-series grant and two $8,300 single-series grants for a total of five series.

We are now accepting applications to host Prime Time series in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023!

Go to Humanities.org/host-prime-time for more or contact primetime@humanities.org.