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Mid-Continent Public Library Garners Grant Funding

Missouri State Library Awards MCPL Funds for Literacy and Tech Projects

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded five grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (as administered by the Missouri State Library) since March to fund critical early literacy and technology projects throughout the Library’s three-county district. In total, these grants will bring in more than $52,000 to support the work of the Library.

“Early literacy resources and up-to-date technology are both essential to the work of Mid-Continent Public Library as a 21st Century library and community pillar,” said Rebecca Maddox, MCPL Development Specialist. “These generous grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will provide much needed support for the Library’s initiatives and will go a long way in helping the Library achieve its mission of enhancing the lives of community members every single day.”

The recently awarded grants include:

- **Technology Ladder Grant**—$24,430
  - Supports the purchase of equipment to improve the Library’s network and Wi-Fi systems in order to provide faster connections, greater user capacity, and better coverage for Library customers and staff. In addition to increasing internet speed, these new devices will allow for faster updates and an increased level of security by the Library’s IT team.

- **Spotlight on Literacy Grant**—$7,527
  - Funds the development of a new program called STEAM-Powered Afternoons with MCPL. Built around the STEAM concept of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math-based education, this project will promote digital literacy to underserved youth throughout the Library system through coding and virtual reality programming.

- **Racing to Read Grant**—$5,100
  - Supports the continuation of the Teens, Tots, and Tales: Building Family Literacy and Libraries program and will fund educational storytimes and books for families to take home as well as early literacy workshops for area childcare and early education providers. The Teens, Tots, and Tales program was established in 2016 with the Independence School District’s Early Education Center at Truman High School to help teen parents establish good family literacy practices.

- **Summer Library Program Grant**—$10,453
- Supports the purchase of outreach materials for the Library’s Reading Rocket, a mobile early literacy unit that travels to underserved areas of the community (“transportation deserts”) to provide vital Library services.

- **Technology Mini-Grant—$4,498**
  - Funds the purchase of a tabletop tablet for early learning at MCPL’s North Independence Branch.

These projects are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

### Access Your World

**Mid-Continent Public Library** is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a **2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service** winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s approximately [123,000 libraries](https://www.imls.gov) and [35,000 museums](https://www.imls.gov). Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](https://www.imls.gov) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.