



## Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

### Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to [karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu), and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **Friday, March 31, 2006**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2006, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. **Project Title: Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED)**
2. **Funding Requested: \$2,200**
3. **Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County): Pam Peterson, Door County**
  - a) **Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable): Beth Lokken, Sturgeon Bay Youth Services Librarian; Marge Grutzmacher, Passtimes Books**
4. **Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Grant Applicant/Lead**
5. **Project Description**
  - a) Situation Statement (Describe how this relates to the UWEX strategic plan and/or your plan of work), and outline the following criteria that relate to your project.
    - i) Fosters teamwork and collaboration with other agencies, campuses, or colleagues
    - ii) Incorporates the use of other funders
    - iii) Includes a new program direction that may be replicated
    - iv) Focuses on reaching new audiences
    - v) Exposes potential employees to UWEX

Fathers are more than just “second adults” in the home. Involved fathers bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to provide. Literature on fathering indicates that fathers are neither uninterested nor inept as they begin their “parenting careers” and that active father involvement is predictive of better developmental outcomes for children. Children with involved, loving fathers do better in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy and criminal activity (Horn and Sylvester 2002).

Reading with young children is one of the easiest ways fathers can become involved with their infant, toddler or preschooler. A recent survey found that about 58 percent of children ages 3 – 5 are read to daily by a family member. In families where parents had less than a high school diploma, only 41 percent of children were read to daily (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, 2005). In Door County, 12 percent of the population age 25 and over has no high school diploma. Programs like Books for Babies and First Book support literacy by targeting low income households to encourage future generations of

readers and ensure there are no “bookless” homes. However, no local program focuses on fathers/male caregivers in literacy development efforts.

The FRED program was included in the Family Living 2006-2007 Plan of Work. The program will expand upon existing collaborations between UWEX, Door County Libraries and Passtimes Books by including local social service agencies that serve high risk families. Additional funders, both cash and in-kind, include Door County Libraries, Passtimes Books, Healthy Families and the Teen Parent Program. FRED is a new literacy initiative for Door County that focuses on low-income fathers/male caregivers. It is anticipated the program will continue in future years with additional community funding and grant opportunities. Potential UWEX employees who will be exposed to the program include program participants but also staff of local agencies who learn more about UWEX through this collaboration.

b) Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes

Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) will educate fathers and male caregivers about the importance of reading with children daily. The target population for the program will include fathers/male caregivers and grandfathers from low income and fragile families. Program participants will be recruited from Head Start, Door County Teen Parent Program, Healthy Families Program, Door County Departments of Social Services and Community Programs and Door County Libraries. Fathers/male caregivers will establish a habit of reading with their children on a daily basis.

The program will increase father involvement in their child’s literacy development by modeling family literacy and significantly increasing the amount of time fathers spend reading with their child. Through sharing books and stories, fathers will learn fun new ways to interact with their child. Program participants will indicate improvement in the quality of time spent with their child and greater satisfaction with the father-child relationship. Medium-term outcomes will include an increase in the level of involvement in their child’s education.

c) Project Timeline (include planned responses/activities)

FRED is a four-week program designed to encourage fathers to read to their children on a daily basis. The program will begin with a “kick off” event on the Saturday before Father’s Day where fathers will be presented with a participant packet that contains an introduction to the program, reading logs, tips for reading aloud to children, and recommended book lists which feature fathers interacting with their children. The kick off event will include learning games, balloons, fun activities and food for the dads and kids. Children will be entertained by a local magician and/or singer/songwriter while the Family Living Educator talks with fathers about the importance of reading to their child. Beth Lokken, Youth Services Librarian, will teach fathers fun techniques to add *pizzazz* to their reading and storytelling style. The learning session for fathers will be based on the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum developed by the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Services to Children. Fathers and children will also receive free, age appropriate books at the event. Fathers will complete the participant survey.

During the next four weeks, fathers will record the number of books and the amount of time they spend reading to their children each day on the reading logs provided. Upon completion of the program, the number of books and the amount of time spent reading over the course of the program will be totaled. Fathers and children will be invited to attend a wrap-up event to celebrate their participation in FRED. Learning games, fun activities and food will be provided. Reading logs will be exchanged for prizes including free books and FRED t-shirts. Participants will complete a program evaluation.

d) Evaluation Plan

Participants will complete a pre-test survey collecting demographic information such as ethnicity, educational level, household income, age and marital status. Participants will also be asked to indicate how many times they engage in fun or educational activities with their child, how often they read or tell stories to their child and how often they use the public library. After program completion, participants will complete a post test survey measuring behavioral change in literacy activities related to program participation and any additional suggestions they may have regarding the FRED program.

**6. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):**

**Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED)**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>In-kind/Cash Collaborator Contributions</b>	<b>District Resource Management Funds</b>
Books	\$200	<b>\$500</b>
Program Incentives		<b>\$550</b>
Food		<b>\$800</b>
Entertainer		<b>\$350</b>
Facility usage	\$270	
Program materials	\$125	
Printing/Postage	\$75	
Additional supplies	\$85	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$755</b>	<b>\$2,200</b>

Grant request is based upon an estimate of 100 father and youth participants. Partial cost of books will be provided by Passtimes Books. The cost of materials for learning games/activities, flyers, printing and postage and additional supplies will be supplied by Door County UW-Extension Family Living Programs. Facility usage for the event will be donated by Crossroads at Big Creek.

Additional in-kind contributions (not included in the table above) include staff time from Door County UW-Extension for program preparation and facilitation, developing outreach materials, mailing and copying, and project evaluation; Sturgeon Bay Library staff time for program preparation and facilitation as well as purchase of the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum. Transportation for participants needing assistance will be provided by Healthy Families and Teen Parent Program Staff.

**District Resource Management Funds** will be utilized to purchase additional age appropriate books for youth participants and food for both kick-off and celebration events; entertainment such as a magician or singer/songwriter for the kick off event; and program incentives such as t-shirts and balloons for the wrap up event.

**7. If you have received Resource Management funds in the past, include the following information:** I have not previously received Resource Management funds

- a) Describe your past experiences with resource management grants – project focus, funding received, project collaborators
- b) What were the outcomes of your project efforts?
- c) How is this project proposal new or different?