

Needs Statement Examples:

- Example #1: Initial statement – not approved for funding:

“Many of the children we will be serving come from families with a lower income. The daycares we are partnering with serve mainly the lower income kids. By us partnering with them the kids will have access to books they wouldn’t usually be able to be in contact with.”

- Attempt #2 – was approved for funding:

“After speaking with our local elementary school we have learned that during the 2012/2013 school year so far over 87% of their students qualify for free/reduced meal rates. As far as reading scores only 45.3 % of Kindergartners reached the benchmark for the Idaho Reading Indicator, 57.8% of first graders and 39.1% of second graders. We believe that if more of our kids had access to books and were able to actually take them home and read their reading levels would rise. Many of these kids do not come from families who are able to go out and purchase books, so it is up to us to supply our local kids with books.”

Here are two strong examples from applications to ICfL from last year’s process, which include data and statistics in the response:

In the 2010-2011 school year 90% of our Kindergarten students qualified for free/reduced lunch. At the beginning of the school year 68% did not meet the benchmark for the IRI (Idaho Reading Indicator). 19% of our Preschool and Kindergarten students have developmental disabilities/delays. 23% of the Kindergarten students are English Language Learners. These children must have access to books in order to be better prepared when they enter kindergarten, and we can provide them through this program if our application is accepted.

(City) is a rural, agriculture-based community. According to the US Census data, 15% of the approximately 2,400 residents live below poverty level. Current enrollment statistics for the XXX Elementary reiterate this fact – 63% of preschool through fourth grade students qualify for free or reduced-rate lunches, evidence of the low-income situations in which they live. In addition The Census indicates that over 22% of the population age five and older speaks a language other than English at home. With statistics showing such a high percentage of ‘at-risk children’ it is imperative to the academic success of our youngest citizens that XXX Public Library provide no-cost, enrichment opportunities and programs such as the Read to Me First Book program, that are language and vocabulary rich, with quality children’s literature as the base.

Your turn –

Needs Assessment (Problem Statement)

Objectively addresses specific situation, opportunity, problem, issue, need, and the community your proposal addresses. Support your statement with qualified third-party research/evidence to justify the need or problem. Clearly, concisely demonstrate that a relevant, compelling problem or need exists, and include the following:

1. Description of target population.
2. Definition of community problem to be addressed and service area need.