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REACH OUT AND READ ANNOUNCES DISTRIBUTION OF \$400K FROM MACKENZIE SCOTT FUNDING

10 Reach Out and Read affiliates across the country will be funded from this project

BOSTON (Jan. 29, 2024) – [Reach Out and Read](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting early childhood literacy and healthy early relationships, announces the investment of \$400,000 into communities nationwide. This substantial allocation from a record-setting donation by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott will support 10 projects at Reach Out and Read Affiliates across the country. These projects strengthen Reach Out and Read’s shared goals, partnership efforts, and vision of growing the program nationwide. In FY23, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.4 million families with young children, working to strengthen parent-child relationships through shared reading.

The \$400,000 will be invested in 10 Reach Out and Read Affiliates, each playing a critical role in empowering families. These new projects will help build staff, relationships, and resources to enable the Affiliates to further foster early childhood development and literacy in their regions. This funding is the first major allocation from [the \\$8 million donation to Reach Out and Read by Scott](#) in 2023. Her commitment to addressing societal challenges aligns seamlessly with Reach Out and Read’s vision of building a strong foundation for children’s future success.

“These investments in local communities are also investments into the lives of children and families. Building healthy early relationships through shared reading and early literacy is a powerful catalyst for positive change,” said Reach Out and Read CEO Marty Martinez. “We are grateful for MacKenzie Scott’s transformative gift, which is already helping us to create those moments that matter with their children.”

These new, growth-minded projects received the awards:

- **Arizona:** Expand support to Reach Out and Read clinics; \$40,000
- **Bay Area:** Hire staff to secure sustained fiscal support; \$40,000
- **Carolinas/Mid-Atlantic (includes North and South Carolina):** Increase community partnerships; \$40,000
- **Florida:** Launch Clinician Learning Collaborative; \$40,000
- **Greater New York:** Purchase diverse books; \$40,000

- [Indiana](#): Hire staff to secure sustained fiscal support; \$40,000
- [Michigan](#): Fund books for statewide expansion; \$38,500
- [Northeast](#): Hire staff to secure fiscal support for expansion into Maine; \$40,000
- [Northwest](#): Expand public awareness throughout medical community; \$37,500
- [Wisconsin](#): Create diverse books initiative; \$44,995

“Ultimately, this funding will ensure that we are able to deepen our presence with families, strengthen our partnerships with local clinics, and build a foundation to continue supporting children in over 300,000 well-child visits annually,” said Reach Out and Read Bay Area Executive Director Artavia Berry.

These Affiliates span diverse communities, transform pediatric care, and provide important resources to families. Reach Out and Read is excited to be able to further the work being done to positively impact the lives of children nationwide. This use of the Scott gift to invest in Affiliates and communities is an ongoing strategy that will continue to grow.

In FY23, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.4 million children and provided 7.1 million free books across 8.8 million well-child visits. More than two-thirds of the children served are from low-income families. Recent research in a [peer-reviewed study published in Academic Pediatrics](#) confirms the program’s effectiveness in increasing the frequency of parental reading. To learn more about Reach Out and Read and the programs offered, go to ReachOutAndRead.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Reach Out and Read leverages the near-universal reach of the pediatric well-child visit to support caregivers in fostering healthy relationships with their young children through shared reading. The only national pediatric literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read serves children in every state across the U.S., through 6,200 clinics and the expertise of 36,000 clinicians. Discover more at reachoutandread.org.