

**Community Libraries in Caring Grant Program  
Funding Projects  
FY 2007 – 2008**

**Organization:** Alachua County Library District  
**Project Name:** Early Literacy Station - Archer Branch Library  
**Funding Amount:** \$3,908  
**Population to be Served:** 500  
**Area to be Served:** Archer Community

**Summary:** The Archer Branch Library will provide computer equipment and programs specifically designed for children between ages two and eight to facilitate early development of learning, computer, and literacy skills. The grant will purchase an Early Literacy Station, which is a self-contained computer and printer unit that will provide numerous programs designed to increase literacy from an early age. It has the capacity to grow with the children and to provide increasingly challenging materials for them to work with. The station will complete the full parent/child resource and Snuggle-Up Center at the library.

**Organization:** Charlotte-Glades Library System  
**Project Name:** Glades County Public Library Non-Print Collection Development/Improvement  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,000  
**Population to be Served:** 2,000  
**Area to be Served:** Glades County

**Summary:** Glades County is a rural area with major industries of agriculture and cattle. There are few cultural activities, and no museums, movie theaters, art galleries, or bookstores. The library is a main center for community activities. Grant funds will purchase VHS or DVD movies and audio books to update titles for all ages. The goal is to attract new users to the library, support personal interest, and provide entertainment and public enjoyment. The local government will join in helping to sponsor several group activities and aid with promotion to draw new patrons to the library.

**Organization:** Collier County Public Library  
**Project Name:** Immokalee Library Homework Help  
**Funding Amount:** \$9,292  
**Population to be Served:** 23,205  
**Area to be Served:** Immokalee

**Summary:** The Immokalee Branch of Collier County Public Library is more than a library; it is a community information center. The library offers a specialized, proactive blend of services to best serve the unique population, many of whom are unskilled farm workers living below federal poverty guidelines. This grant will continue the library's successful outreach programs for at-risk migrant children and at-risk teens. The current efforts include working with several partner organizations, including PACE Center for Girls, Immokalee Childcare, and Guadalupe Center. With increasing usage of the library and a high demand for supplemental educational training, there is an increased demand for computers and computer based resources. Grant funds will purchase four dedicated computer workstations along with a subscription to the Tutor.com service. This will allow the library to provide homework assistance to students and basic skills assistance to others.

**Organization:** Heartland Library Cooperative  
**Project Name:** Hardee Goes Graphic  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,000  
**Population to be Served:** 2,527  
**Area to be Served:** Hardee County

**Summary:** The Hardee County Library will implement a grant to purchase a new collection of graphic novels and teen magazines to strengthen its services to teens and to improve literacy among junior high and high school students. The cost for processing these materials will be covered by local funds. All books purchased will be cataloged and shared by being added to the online catalog of the Heartland Library Cooperative of Highland, Okeechobee, and DeSoto counties. This grant will encourage a love of reading among the county schools' teens in partnership with the public school system.

**Organization:** Levy County Public Library System  
**Project Name:** Youth Services Grant  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,000  
**Population to be Served:** 9,072  
**Area to be Served:** Levy County

**Summary:** The Levy County Public Library System will use this grant to fund children's services at all five library branches. This would allow the branches, which serve small rural populations, to fulfill the requirements of the annual plan of service and to provide programming for birth to age 18. The Youth Services Coordinator will conduct children's programs (both preschool and elementary), home school programs, summer programs, and "tween" programs, and will also continue the Birthday Club and Born to Read programs.

**Organization:** New River Public Library Cooperative  
**Project Name:** Better Access for Library Patrons  
**Funding Amount:** \$5,800  
**Population to be Served:** 68,429  
**Area to be Served:** Baker, Bradford, and Union counties

**Summary:** The New River Public Library Cooperative is a multicounty cooperative comprised of one library in each of Baker, Bradford, and Union counties. In 1999, the three counties worked together to provide a joint online library catalog so that residents of each of the three counties could share resources. All of the libraries have a joint Web page that includes the online catalog as well as links to online resources and databases, program information, bookmobile schedules, blogs, and newsletters. Grant funds will be used to update and enhance the interface to the online catalog and Web services to patrons.

**Organization:** New River Public Library Cooperative  
**Project Name:** For Reading Out Loud  
**Funding Amount:** \$7,000  
**Population to be Served:** 13,576  
**Area to be Served:** Baker, Bradford, and Union counties

**Summary:** The New River Public Library Cooperative is a multicounty cooperative comprised of one library in each of Baker, Bradford, and Union counties. Grant funds will be used to purchase audio books (cassette, CD, and Playaways) for each library. The audio books purchased with these funds will expose young readers to new vocabulary and help preschool children match sounds with printed language. Audio books, when listened to by children and parents together, can provide a starting point for discussions between parent and child. As the audio books will be consistent across all three cooperative counties, the shared resources will allow for greater collection development and reading resources.

**Organization:** Polk County Library Cooperative  
**Project Name:** Restructuring the Dundee Public Library  
**Funding Amount:** \$10,000  
**Population to be Served:** 7,000  
**Area to be Served:** Dundee

**Summary:** The Dundee Public Library is a municipal library serving the city and other county residents as a member of the Polk County Library Cooperative. This grant will allow the library to restructure, emphasizing children's services, computer access, and popular materials. Grant funds will allow the library to revitalize and create a new children's area, provide additional public seating, and add additional current materials in all formats.

**Organization:** Sumter County Library System  
**Project Name:** Teen Zone  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,000  
**Population to be Served:** 3,061  
**Area to be Served:** Bushnell

**Summary:** The Bushnell Public Library, as a member of the Sumter County Library System, serves as a resource to the community through an array of programs; information sharing; helping those in need; ESOL literacy training; and often acting as the "eyes, ears, and voice" of the community. This project will provide a Teen Zone at the library. The Teen Zone will expand programming by hosting a series of Game Days and Teen Book Clubs, creating a Teen Advisory Board, and scheduling special guests to present pertinent programs in order to attract teens into the library. Regular library programs specifically designed for teens such as beaded jewelry classes, basic guitar classes, Japanese Manga drawing workshops, and bookmaking classes will continue. Funds will be used to purchase materials and furniture to establish a distinct teen area.

**Organization:** Suwannee River Regional Library System  
**Project Name:** Project Teen Focus  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,000  
**Population to be Served:** 4,779  
**Area to be Served:** Suwannee, Madison, and Hamilton counties

**Summary:** This project will create a Teen Advisory Board, which will give teens an opportunity to help plan programs for their peers, provide teens with leadership experience, encourage problem solving skills, and foster teamwork and networking. Grant funds will be used to purchase three laptop computers and three multimedia projectors. A staff position to serve as liaison with the proposed Teen Advisory Board, and print promotional/marketing materials and bibliographies for teens will also be funded.

**Organization:** Wilderness Coast Public Libraries  
**Project Name:** Home Business/Website Project on the Bookmobile

**Funding Amount:** \$20,000

**Population to be Served:** 963

**Area to be Served:** Jefferson, Franklin, and Wakulla counties

**Summary:** Wilderness Coast Public Libraries will sustain the three days per week of bookmobile service for the upcoming fiscal year (October 2007 to September 2008). Jefferson, Franklin, and Wakulla counties will each receive two full days of bookmobile service, every two weeks. The bookmobile covers over 100 miles in a typical day of service and carries a collection of about 2,500 books, videos, books on tape, magazines, research materials, and books to give away. The bookmobile provides access to computers, printers, and sound equipment. In addition to borrowing privileges and reference materials, programs are conducted throughout the year for pleasure. The programs include themed book sharing with preschoolers and senior citizens, storytelling for everyone, safety presentations, teen volunteer programs, assemblies, reading and book report contests, and Florida Library Youth Program summer events. This grant will also fund the Bookmobile extension manager's salary at 0.5 FTE. In addition, the project will implement a program of advertising and distributing small business resources to rural patrons.