

I am the director of a small library in Coos County, Oregon. Ready to Read funding is essential to our community. Last year, we were able to distribute free backpacks filled with books and creative supplies to 121 children in our community, thanks to the State Library's funding. Since we're a small library, we are allotted the minimum amount of a thousand dollars for our summer programming, and we make use of every dollar. Because of the Ready to Read funding, I don't have to worry about how I'll fund our summer programs. Thank you very much for sending us the money that you do, and if it is at all possible, would you kindly consider increasing it? Here are some of the things that children who received summer backpacks funded by Ready to Read had to say about them: "Ceap [keep] on doing this because I love to READ" and "I got so excited because I got this back-pack and look there are books in it that I can keep" and "Thank you for the backpack. I all ready [sic] read the hole [sic] book of Bad guys. I love to read book." Our primary goals are that children engage in reading for pleasure over the summer months, and I promise you, they really do. This funding really matters. Thank you so very much for your time and consideration. Please email or call me if you'd like me to talk for hours about how much we appreciate and need this.