Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Science on Wheels Grant

1. **Purpose:**
Science on Wheels has been serving students and schools, as well as the larger community, for over 40 years. Science on Wheels travels to communities throughout Washington state and the Pacific Northwest bringing interactive science, math, and engineering curriculum to students, teachers, and families.

2. **Description of services provided:**
Science on Wheels used legislative funding to provide science and STEM programming in schools and community settings, supporting science education offered in Washington State schools. With students in remote learning mode and restrictions on gatherings for much of the year, Science on Wheels did not provide outreach services via vans and all-school assemblies as it has done in the past. Instead, the Pacific Science Center rapidly developed virtual STEM learning outreach programs that allowed the Science Center to connect with students and educators on their own school's platform, Zoom, or Teams. Specifically, FY21 funding provided support for:
    - the development and delivery of live virtual programs to Title I schools, and
    - the creation of prerecorded programs with multiple language options for asynchronous access.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**
Schools must be designated as Title I in order to receive discounted or free services.

    Once the asynchronous programs with multiple language options are released in the 2021-2022 academic year, any school or community center can utilize the resources. Title I schools will receive discounted or free service.

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0 FTE
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY21 Funding:	**State Appropriation:**	$130,000
	Federal Appropriation:	$0
	Other fund sources:	$0
	TOTAL (FY21)	$130,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**
☒ No
☐ Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	$130,000	$130,000
FY20	$250,000	$66,092

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 31
Number of Title I Schools: 124
Number of Students: 6660
Number of Educators: 658
Other: Advisory Educators 5

Fiscal Year	Number of Advisory Educators
FY21	5
FY20	10

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**
None

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**
Support from OSPI made possible significant advances in the development of the new programming titles and modalities necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and related remote learning. Funding for staff time and materials enabled the delivery of 179 individual programs to 124 Title I schools in Washington state during the 2020-2021 school year. Science on Wheels teacher advisory group supported the program by providing essential feedback regarding program logistics, content and topics, and online facilitation, helping to meet the needs of teachers and students. Lastly, funding allowed several programs to record, and add different language options (subtitled Chinese, Amharic, and Somali, recording of a Spanish speaking presenter, and side-by-side video with ASL interpretation). These videos will be able for student use beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

Throughout the year of developing and delivering virtual programs to schools, teachers overwhelmingly responded positively to these programs. In addition to high satisfaction with the programs this past year, teachers are interested in continued participation in virtual programming in the future, when in-person programming resumes. In post-program surveys, 68% of respondents reported “sure” interest and 27% report “potential” interest in participating in virtual programming in the future. As a result, the Pacific Science Center is committed to digital and virtual engagements in the future, thanks to the foundational work of this past year.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

A major challenge of the past year was related to the newness of the entire process. At the start of the school year, schools, and especially Title I schools, were focused on foundational activities, including engagement, devices and meals. Registration for programs lagged for the first few months of the school year, building greatly in the winter and spring. Science On Wheels responded by increasing allocated resources and staff time to meet this need, and were able to deliver 179 programs funded by OSPI by the end of the school year.

Virtual engagement was a new program style for the Pacific Science Center, and during the year the staff built the entire program. This included creating a physical broadcast space, training staff, creating the programs, and developing best practices for the program facilitation. In the spring, facilitation was adjusted as students moved from virtual learning to in-classroom and hybrid models. These spaces, programs, and best practices will be utilized in the coming school years.

Work to increase language availability was challenging as it was more time consuming than originally anticipated. Through the process, Science on Wheels has begun to develop relationships with organizations supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, define the resources and processes for correct language translation and video editing, and refine the style of facilitation to better suit asynchronous video viewing.

10. **Future opportunities:**

While virtual programming was initially necessitated by the closure of in-person programming due to COVID-19, program successes this year and the positive feedback received from learners and teachers confirmed Science on Wheels' commitment to continued virtual programming into the future. Virtual programming is predicted to continue, and also become a supporting component for in-person experiences. For example, an in-person Science On Wheels program could be augmented by pre- and post-virtual engagements, enhancing the in-person program day. In the 2021-2022 school year, Science On Wheels will continue adding different languages to programs to increase access, build a more permanent studio space ensuring virtual programming is not interrupted as the Pacific Science Center reopens the facility for general admission, and will continue to develop and deliver virtual programming to schools in Washington.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (18) $250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation in fiscal year 2020 and $130,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to continue providing science on wheels activities in schools and other community settings. Funding is provided to develop pa new computer science program and outfit a van with program resources in order to expand statewide outreach.

12. **Other relevant information:**

Science on Wheels thanks OSPI for its support for the 2020-21 school year. The program development from this past year will be utilized to continue service to schools in virtual and digital formats, as well as in-person programming.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**
See OSPI's Grantee List

14. **Program Contact Information:**
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