



Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund 2023 Guidelines

This fund was originated “to promote greater and easier access by youth to local libraries” and to “promote genuine intellectual curiosity and a lifelong love of reading and learning.”

Having invested almost \$1.6M from the Rosen Fund and over \$1.8M from the grant cycle overall, this grant cycle has served the 33 libraries of the Finger Lakes Library System for over 11 years. Youth programming has flourished and become a valued part of your communities.

As libraries continue to assess and adjust services through the barriers that COVID has posed, as well as face capacity challenges, we strive to work together to efficiently and meaningfully communicate the successes of programs, the emerging needs of your communities and best practices in library youth services.

In 2023, we will continue to use a report/application format that reflects the following.

1. A report on previous year funding will be due on Feb. 22nd at 8 pm. This report will reflect either the completion of funds if, for example, funding was used for summer reading the prior year, or as an interim report if funding is being used for school year programming.
2. At the end of the report, there will be an opportunity to request funding for youth services providing completion prior to June 30th, 2024 (summer reading for the current year or school year services for the following year would be included).
3. There will be no other written reports required for the rest of the year, however, the review team will engage in a select number of site or zoom visits (to be scheduled later) to have a more in-depth discussion on youth services at your library. This will be a conversation to get to know your leadership, your youth services, your library and your community better.
4. In 2021, the Community Foundation Board of Directors carried out a strategic plan resulting in a new mission statement and strategic plan. One of our goals is to “assess and improve organization practices and culture continuously through a diversity, equity, inclusion and justice lens” With that, the foundation has committed to include questions related to DEI so that together we can learn about, share and connect resources in service to equity.
5. As you complete your requests for new funding, we will also look for your plans to use resources such as outcome measurement and survey tools facilitated by the Finger Lakes Library System.
6. Rosen Funds have a specific purpose related to youth reading and learning, and should not be used to replace the loss of municipal or other government funding sources.
7. We are interested in learning about the communities you serve. In the application, you will be asked to provide the % of students in your service area eligible for free and reduced school lunches and the % of service population below the poverty line.
8. We continue to encourage collaboration with many entities, if 5 or more FLLS libraries are collaborating on a program/project, the collaboration is eligible for a maximum award of \$16,000, separate from the per library maximum of \$16,000 (e.g. this has often been used for author visits in service to multiple libraries).

Below are additional guidelines on how Rosen funding may be used.

A. Early Childhood (Birth to 5)

- Storytime materials (e.g. books, puppets, felt boards, storage receptacles, craft supplies, snacks, evaluation materials, etc.)
- Storytime staff (including time for planning, preparation, programming and evaluation).
- Books for circulation
- Some specialized technology for early readers (e.g. early literacy computers, emerging early literacy devices such as Launchpads and tablets)
- Incentives and supplies for summer reading activities (including book distribution)
- Summer reading programming - This fund will support supplies and materials for summer reading programming including books used for reading incentives. See detail below for information on event-related performers*
- Story Walks

B. Kindergarten-5th Grade

- Book clubs (e.g. staff time, advertising, book distribution, transportation, supportive materials for themed meetings, snacks)
- Transportation expenses related to youth activities such as book clubs (e.g. LiFT programs, GPL Teen Thing, etc.)
- Staff salaries for youth-related programming (including time for planning, preparation, programming and evaluation, staff development such as trainings and attendance at conferences and related expenses).
- Youth reading and library access, and activities that support it. (E.g. medieval costuming, pumpkin-carving, face-painting, etc.), need to be part of a comprehensive plan that encourages reading activities. For example, a teen meeting that just included face-painting would not merit a grant for the supplies associated with it. A teen event/book club meeting that offered a book discussion, encouragement and access to sign up for a library card, an orientation on how to use the library and its resources, an incentive program that encourages reading, or other engagement that encourages reading and love of learning, for which an activity such as face-painting would accompany, support and encourage attendance, would be eligible for grant support. Reports and funding requests should be clear about the reading and learning engagement activities that support by such activities.
- Collection development to meet needs of local community (e.g. books, e-books, graphic novels, Take and Make activities, science kits, activity kits, audio books, tablets, media devices, etc.)
- Author Visits and related expenses
- Purchase of books for distribution (e.g. summer reading incentives and book clubs)

- Specialized technology that supports intellectual curiosity (e.g. Makerspaces/equipment and emerging technology that supports interactive learning and literacy)
- Summer reading programming - This fund will support supplies and materials for summer reading programming including books used for reading incentives. See detail below for information on event-related performers*
- Story Walks

C. 6th - 12th grade

- Book clubs (staff time, books for distribution to participants, advertising, transportation, supportive materials for themed meetings, snacks)
- Transportation expenses related to youth activities such as book clubs (e.g. LiFT programs, etc.)
- College prep classes (e.g. this is not a priority of the fund, but college application and related trainings may be funded, particularly in communities that lack resources and opportunities for this kind of support in attaining higher education)
- Staff salaries for youth-related programming (including time for planning, preparation, programming and evaluation, staff development such as trainings and attendance at conferences).
- Field trip expenses (e.g. Annual Teen Book Fair in Rochester)
- Teen employment - Work should promote programming that encourages reading and literacy (e.g. not solely the shelving of books)
- Collection development to meet needs of local community (e.g. books, e-books, graphic novels, science kits, activity kits, audio books, tablets, media devices, etc.)
- Author Visits and related expenses
- Specialized technology that supports intellectual curiosity (e.g. Makerspaces/equipment and emerging technology that supports interactive learning and literacy)
- Purchase of books for distribution (e.g. summer reading incentives and book clubs)
- Summer reading programming - This fund will support supplies and materials for summer reading programming including books used for reading incentives. See detail below for information on event-related performers*
- Story Walks

* **Summer Reading Programming** – this fund will support activities and event-related performers that encourage learning and literacy and that support ongoing access to the library and its services. For example, hosting Dan the Snake Man to provide entertainment for the community alone will not be supported by this fund. A themed event for which the focus is access to the library and reading would be supported, however. For example, a summer reading event that had a theme of reptiles, which had displays of books about reptiles for checkout, encouragement and access to sign up for a library card, meet and greet with staff so

that youth and families know the faces of those in their library and would be more inclined to visit an otherwise unfamiliar place, information about book clubs and the opportunity to sign up for one, and a visit from Dan the Snake Man that would draw youth to the event, would be eligible for grant funding.

Rosen will NOT fund the following youth related activities/services:

- Computers for general use
- Capital campaigns
- Furniture/bookshelves (e.g. will not fund a couch or chair for a teen corner/room)
- Internet services
- Performers for purposes of entertainment alone. Performers must be part of a comprehensive plan for activities and events that encourage learning and literacy and that support ongoing access to the library and its services (see previous example).
- Console video game devices (e.g. X-box, Nintendo, PlayStation)
- The Rosen bequest specifically indicates, “Funds should not be used to promote a political agenda”. Community Reads will be considered for grant support if they are in accordance with the intent of the bequest.