



# CITY OF CONCORD

## Report to Council

**FROM:** Todd Fabian, Library Director

**DATE:** July 1, 2021

**SUBJECT:** LSTA ARPA State Grants and Diminimus Appropriation

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report regarding the acceptance of reimbursement funds in the amount of \$5,742 from an LSTA ARPA State Grant and appropriate the sum of \$5,742 in the Grants and Donations fund for this purpose. Funds are requested to be expended under the authority established pursuant to Resolution #8120, adopted December 10, 2007.

### **Background**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has made funds available to all states and in New Hampshire, those funds are administered by the New Hampshire State Library. The grants are designed to help communities respond directly and immediately to the pandemic, as well as to related economic and community needs through equitable approaches. Spending priorities are attached to this report.

### **Discussion**

NHSL 5-Year Goal: Goal III: Equity of Innovation, Activity 3.2: Introduce new and existing technologies to libraries that will allow them to create innovative programming and services.

The addition of these tablets (Launchpads) and audiobook/book bundles (Bookpacks) will build upon our aging collection of learning devices available for all ages. This collection of devices supports digital inclusion and early education in our community, and has been well received by parents and children. The bulk of the collection was purchased several years ago and parents routinely inquire about whether any new devices are available.

Item(s): 21 Playaway – Launchpad Tablets (\$3,149.79), 27 Playaway – Bookpacks (\$2,157.27).

Example URL: <https://playaway.com/launchpad/>

Example URL: <https://playaway.com/bookpacks/>

How these devices are used:

- The devices come pre-loaded with educational content for kids, and teens, or in the case of the Playaway – Bookpacks packaged with an audio player and print book for all ages.
- They offer a simple, easy-to-use interface that is dedicated to vetted educational content.
- We will feature these devices in marketing efforts to increase usage and to attract families to the library for additional early learning activities, resources, etc.

Why:

- Many Concord families have limited access to early learning devices at home.
- The devices do not require WiFi (essential for families without Internet access at home).
- The devices are durable, require minimal maintenance and repairs, and parents have been providing positive feedback about the educational content.

Evaluation:

- We will use our computer system to track usage of the Launchpads and Bookpacks.
- We will measure the effectiveness of our marketing efforts using our digital marketing platform (LibraryAware).
- We will create a tracking document to gather anecdotal feedback from families.

NHSL 5-Year Goal: Goal 2: Equity of Service, Activity 2.8: Coordinate statewide literacy projects, including the summer reading program and other programs geared to different age groups and underserved populations.

The library is planning summer events using a variety of outdoor venues throughout the city due to the reduced capacity limits for our indoor spaces. A waterproof tent is required for inclement weather and shade. The PA system will be required for larger events where patrons are spread out for social distancing.

Item(s): 1 Tent (264.95), and 1 portable PA system (\$169.99)

Example URL: <https://abccanopy.com/products/10x10package?variant=17503967412270>

Example URL: <https://www.amazon.com/ION-Audio-Block-Rocker-Plus/dp/B07C32XSH1/>

How these devices are used:

- Create a comfortable space for outdoor events.
- Allow for adequate sound enhancement in outdoor settings.

Why:

- Programs may have to be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

- Outdoor spaces require sound amplification for speakers and presenters.

Evaluation:

- We will track both in-person and online attendance at our events.
- We will gather additional patron feedback via attendee evaluation forms.

cc: City Manager