

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Child Care Connection, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0113419****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# Child Care Connection, Inc. - Anchorage Imagination Library Books & Postage

**State Funding Requested: \$15,000**  
One-Time Need

**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

**Brief Project Description:**

Purchase of books and postage for delivery to children in the Anchorage area.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$30,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$15,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$15,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Anchorage Imagination Library is a project in partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library. All Anchorage children are eligible to participate in the program. Participating children receive books in the mail to bolster their reading skills. A study conducted by the Tennessee Board of Regents concluded that imagination library programs improve student performance and better prepares students for kindergarten. There are no administrative costs to the program, its support work is accomplished by volunteers. The state funding would be matched dollar for dollar with private and local contributions.

**Project Timeline:**

Expenditures would occur throughout FY2013

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

The Anchorage Imagination Library

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Karen Matthias  
 Title: Volunteer Steering Committee Chair  
 Address: 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104A  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
 Phone Number: 301-1022  
 Email: kjmatthias@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



**Did you say a free  
book a month?**



**Until I'm five?**



**Oh, thank you!**



The Anchorage Imagination Library has provided books to children under five in Anchorage since 2009. Here are some highlights:

- **For only \$30 per year, each child receives a book every month in the mail;**
- More than **6,000 children** are currently enrolled;
- There are **no administrative costs**, as the support work is done by volunteers who believe that all Anchorage children deserve access to quality children's books so that they enter kindergarten eager and ready to learn;
- While all Anchorage children are eligible for the program, we **target enrollment activities in low income neighborhoods**, at charitable events like **Neighborhood Gift** and through the **Program for Infants and Children**;
- To date, the program has been **funded with local donations** from various groups and individuals, **along with grants from Best Beginnings** and the **United Way**;
- We pick up undeliverable books from Anchorage's post offices every month for delivery to **homeless shelters**, reaching some of the **most vulnerable children in our community**.

This project is part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. **It has been shown to improve student performance and better prepare youngsters for kindergarten**, in a study conducted by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library selects high-quality books, negotiates with publishers and arranges the mailing, but each local program must raise funds to pay for the books and postage.

**We are asking for your financial support.** For only \$15 per child, the legislature could provide a 50/50 match for our local contributions that would ensure the viability of our program. Our request **for 2012-13 is \$15,000, or less than \$1,000 for each House District in Anchorage and Eagle River.** None of the dollars are spent for administration. Your investment will be matched with private dollars. And best of all, it helps get 1,000 youngsters ready for success in school. What a smart investment!

Thank you for considering our request. How often do you get a chance to do **so much good for so little money—and with volunteer labor?** Please contact me any time if you need more information or have any questions at 301-1022 or [kjmatthias@gmail.com](mailto:kjmatthias@gmail.com). Our fiscal agent, Thread, is a 501(c)(3).

Karen Matthias, Volunteer Steering Committee Chair, Anchorage Imagination Library

**Testimonial from a parent met at Neighborhood Gift (the Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Food Bank event to help families in need at Christmas), December 20, 2011:** *"My 3 year old son Daniel gets so excited when the book comes in the mail as soon as we get it he wants to tear it open and read it right then not later, but right now!" Amber P.*