

MEMORANDUM

To: Grant Approval Workflow Participants
From: Meredith Layton, City Librarian
Darla Rance, Assistant City Librarian
Sheldon Stevens, Teen Librarian
Date: 2/10/2025
Re: Texas State Library and Archives Commission Texas Reads Grant

Comments: Attached please find our Grant Pre-Approval form for a Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Texas Reads Grant.

The Texas Reads grants fund public library programs to promote reading and literacy within local communities. Programs may be targeted to the entire community or a to a segment of the community. Programs focusing on community engagement are strongly encouraged.

Helen Hall Library seeks funding to support the distribution of teen reading resource bags at outreach events, such as school visits, to connect local teens with reading opportunities that fit their interests and daily lives. Each bag will include materials to help teens and their parents discover new books, explore different reading formats, and access library resources such as personalized recommendations, reading challenges, and digital tools. With many teens struggling to find time to read or not knowing where to start, these resource bags will provide guidance, encouragement, and easy access to the right books for them. Grant funds will expand the library's reach, ensuring more teens can engage with reading in a way that fits their needs. By fostering literacy development, this initiative supports academic success and lifelong learning within the community.

Our grant application is due March 7, 2025. If awarded, a program start date is anticipated at the beginning of SFY 2026. No matching funds from the City are required.