

City of Seward, NE
Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Regular Session

Item G9

**CONSIDERATION OF SEWARD FOUNDATION
APPLICATIONS - Becky Baker**

Consideration of Seward Memorial Library request in the amount of \$1,135 as a grant funding match to purchase a table and chairs for use with an Early Literacy Station (Bilingual) and Edge Tablet equipment.

Administrative Report: Following review and discussion, a motion to forward the application to the Seward Foundation or deny the application would be in order.

Staff Contact:

SEWARD FOUNDATION, INC. GRANT REQUEST FORM

NAME OF PROJECT:

AWE for Seward

NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE # OF CONTACT PERSON:

Becky Baker, Seward Memorial Library

233 S. 5th Street

Seward, NE 68434

(402)643-3318

THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE:

CITY COUNCIL SCHOOL BOARD (Please check one)

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT UPON APPROVAL BY THE AFOREMENTIONED ENTITY THIS GRANT REQUEST FORM WILL IN TURN BE SUBMITTED TO THE SEWARD FOUNDATION, INC. FOR FINAL DETERMINATION.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Please provide a brief description of the project under consideration and the proposed use of Seward Foundation, Inc. grant monies.

The library would purchase an Early Literacy Station (Bilingual), an AfterSchool Edge (tablet platform), and various accessories for this technology from AWE Digital Learning Solutions. A table and chairs would also be needed for the equipment. Programs for children and their caregivers would follow staff training. Programs for local parenting groups would also be offered covering this new technology. The Seward Memorial Library asks for funds to go towards the 25% match required by the Nebraska Library Commission, if they approve our grant request. We will learn of their decision by November 9, 2015.

In the library's recently approved strategic plan, one item of concern noted by members of the public was that more quality activities for families were needed in Seward. The programs offered in coordination with the addition of the AWE technology would be one attempt to address this concern. Another item mentioned was that citizens of Seward needed to be friendlier to newcomers. The bilingual nature of the ELS will be used to make those who are new to Seward and to the English language feel more welcome at the library.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please provide additional information regarding the project including the need that the project fulfills within the community and the target market for the project. How will this project be promoted to the community at large?

The Early Literacy Station is an all-in-one digital learning solution for early learners, ages 2-8. It will be in English and Spanish, and features over 65 content applications and includes annual version upgrades. It is NOT connected to the Internet, so some parents may feel more comfortable allowing their children to have access to this technology compared to library computers. The AfterSchool Edge, which we plan to get in tablet format, features content for elementary age students who are ages 6-12 years old that correlates to Common Core and state education standards. This will also not be connected to the Internet so again, parents may feel more at ease when their children use this technology.

Estimates from the 2013 American FactFinder indicate that there are 438 children in Seward under the age of 5. However, only an estimated 48% of 3 and 4 year-olds attend any kind of preschool. Using the library is one way the other 52% of preschoolers may broaden their educational experiences. The library provides literacy support for all young children whether or not they attend preschool elsewhere and the AWE technology will assist in this effort. Statistics also estimate there are 460 children ages 5 to 9 in the City of Seward and exposure to this technology and its content applications may also be important to their development, especially since American FactFinder estimates that 6.3% of families in Seward live below the poverty level and many of these include children under the age of 18. These families most likely do not have expendable income for computers or similar technologies so once more the library can step in to help students become more familiar with electronic resources.

Finally, Seward is extremely homogenous. Our population is 96.8% white and only 1.9% of this number is Latino/Hispanic. The library needs to welcome those for whom English is a learned language no matter how small the segment of population; having the ELS-Bilingual AWE technology will go far to meet this need. Native English speakers may also benefit from exposure to the Spanish language content this machine will make available.

The programs that staff can offer once these machines are installed will be promoted through the library newsletter, website, and Facebook page. We will also promote it on our monthly Leading to Reading postcards and in-house through signs and bookmarks. We will send information to the elementary schools in town, and we will ask the Seward County Independent to do a story about the new resources at the library.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Please provide financial information for the proposed project detailing out the overall estimated cost of the project and the sources and uses of funds including this grant application. Note: The Seward Foundation, Inc. prefers and encourages investment and support from other outside entities to fund projects.

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$6,135

SOURCES OF FUNDS:

USES OF FUNDS:

Nebraska Library Commission

Early Learning Station (AWE) and part of the Edge Tablet

NLC and Seward Foundation

Edge Tablet (partial) and accessories for all AWE equipment

Seward Foundation

Table and Chairs for AWE equip.

Seward Memorial Library

Staff training, planning, and programs

Seward Memorial Library

All promotional costs

OPERATING BUDGET: Please attach and provide an on-going budget for this program/project.

See attached.

Who will continue to fund and maintain this program/project on an on-going basis?

The budget of the Seward Memorial Library will take care of any ongoing costs of maintenance and all programming and promotional costs.

Describe how the budget figures were arrived at?

Quotes were received from vendors for the digital equipment and table/chairs, hourly wages for library staff were used to estimate training and program time costs, and promotional costs from similar projects were researched.

Will this grant be sufficient to start/continue this program/project?

This grant, if received, will be part of a local match for the Nebraska Library Commission grant that will be announced Nov. 9. If both grants are approved, the library is ready to proceed immediately.

Are you submitting this request elsewhere for funding considerations? If so, to whom and for how much?

The total cost of this program at \$6,135. We are submitting a grant to the Nebraska Library Commission for \$4,600. They require a 25% matching grant, so the \$1,135 requested from the Seward Foundation and the \$400 from the Seward Memorial Library will complete the project.

Has this request been made elsewhere and turned down? If so, why?

We submitted this grant to the Nebraska Library Commission last year and did not receive it because they received an overabundance of grant requests from other libraries for this same purpose. We were told we would receive strong consideration (though no promise) if we resubmitted the request this year. This is the final year the NLC will provide grant funds for the AWE equipment we would like to purchase.

After grant monies from the Seward Foundation, Inc. has been expended what plans are being made to ensure the ongoing operation of the project/program?

The use of these technologies supports what the library stands for – exposing children to the wonders of learning and reading. They will be updated annually to remain fresh for the users and staff will continue to promote the equipment in future programs.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Is this project application related to a new or on-going program?

This is a new project for the library.

Who was involved in the development and planning of this program/project?

Becky Baker, Library Director

Becky Reisinger, Library Assistant I / Children's Services

Will this program/project be evaluated regularly and if so by whom?

The use of this technology will be evaluated by the entire library staff in May 2016 and programming will be adjusted, if necessary, before summer programs begin. The equipment itself provides usage reports that will be helpful, as will informal interviews with families who use it.

Is the project/program ready to begin immediately? Yes

If not, what is the target date for completion and/or readiness?

Budget Information for *AWE for Seward*:

The ELS Bilingual version is \$2,750 and the AfterSchool Edge tablet is \$2,255. Other items from AWE include a damage warranty, a protective case for the tablet, headphones for the ELS, and shipping/handling that total \$330.

A children's table and 2 chairs for this equipment is estimated \$400 (shipping/handling estimated).

Staff training and planning time will cost at minimum \$200 and promotion of the technology will be at least another \$200. Staff time and promotion costs will include AWE programs as well.

We are asking for \$1,135 from the Seward Foundation that would add to the \$4,600 we are requesting from the Nebraska Library Commission and the \$400 (cash and in-kind) from the Seward Memorial Library budget.

Total Project Cost: \$6,135

FOR CITY COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION USE:

Is this particular request part of the City Council/Board of Education long range planning? _____

How does this request help fulfill the mission of the City/School District and why should Seward Foundation, Inc. consider funding this grant application? _____

List in priority order all of the spring/fall (circle one) Seward Foundation, Inc. grant requests from the City Council/Board of Education (circle one).

1. _____

2. _____

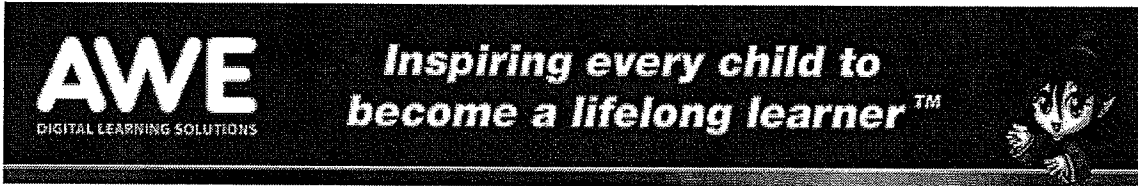
3. _____

This application was approved for submission by the City Council/Board of Education at its _____ (date) meeting by a vote of _____ (vote results). I have read the entire grant request application and believe it meets the mission of Seward Foundation, Inc. for funding.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

**Signature of President of City Council
or Board of Education required.**



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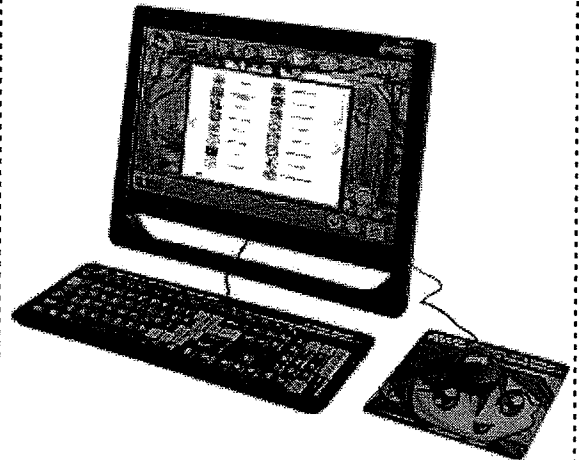
September 1, 2015 through December 15, 2015

Provide a safe, digital learning experience at your library.

AWE's digital learning solutions for young learners immerse children in an extremely rich environment with engaging content, reliable and low maintenance technology, and an easy to navigate administration system.

- **Early Literacy Station: Ages 2-8**
- **AfterSchool Edge: Ages 6-12**

- **Content:** Over 65 award-winning applications.
- **STEM & STREAM:** Over 4,000 multi-curricular learning activities.
- **Safe Learning Environment:** No internet required.
- **Usage Tracking:** Track usage to validate your investment.
- **Ease of Use:** Plug-and-play solution, out of the box ready.
- **Time-tested:** 47% of public libraries use AWE products to improve literacy and increase patron visits.



Product	List Price	Special Rate
Early Literacy Station*	\$3,150	\$2,599
AfterSchool Edge*	\$3,150	\$2,599
Early Literacy Station- Bilingual Spanish*	\$3,350	\$2,750
Early Literacy Station Tablet^	\$2,750	\$2,255
AfterSchool Edge Tablet^	\$2,750	\$2,255

Contact your local AWE account executive to place your order!

Cynthia Busse

Linda Weaver

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\$29.99 - \$48.99

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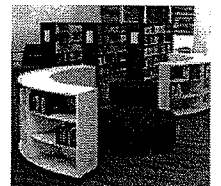
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Jonti-Craft® Berries® Activity Tables

Jonti-Craft KYDZ Activity Table Rectangle 72"W x 30"D
Item #: WF12230400

★★★★★ Write a review

\$189.99

Reset Options

Color Edge ▼

Rectangle ▼

72"W x 30"D ▼

15"H - 24"H for elementary ▼

Select Edge/Leg color

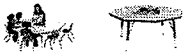


Quantity:

ADD TO CART



More Views:



Product Details

Bright colors attract kids

- 1-1/8" thick scratch-resistant, speckled gray laminate tops
- Moisture-resistant, thermofused edge banding
- Dual-screw, quick-mount legs
- Height adjustable in 1" increments
- Upper leg is powder-coat painted to match edge band color
- Nylon swivel glides prevent rusting

Moderate Assembly

Videos

Templates

Additional Info

Availability

Jonti-Craft KYDZ Activity Table Rectangle 72"W x 30"D

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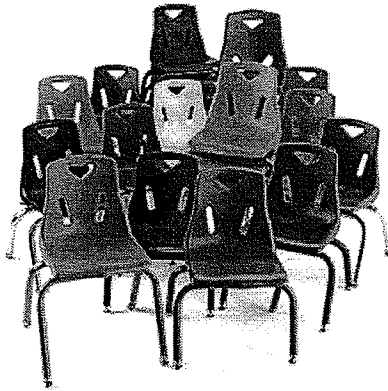
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Jonti-Craft® Berries® Stack Chairs

Jonti-Craft Berries Chairs 14"H Seat, Powder Coated Legs
Item #: WF12230590

★★★★★ 5.0 (3) Write a review

\$40.99

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Pow der Coated Frame ▾

14"H ▾

Select Seat color



Quantity Pricing Discount:

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Product Details

Variety of colors to fit any environment

- Heavy-gauge steel frames
- Polypropylene shells dissipate static electricity
- Concealed rivets will not snag clothes

Videos

Templates

[Chair/Desk Size Chart](#)

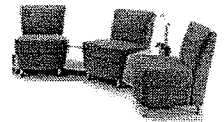
Additional Info

Availability

Jonti-Craft Berries Chairs 14"H Seat, Powder Coated Legs

This product ships directly from the manufacturer in approximately 22 working days.

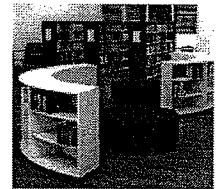
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