

**Butte County Library
Library Advisory Board
North Valley Community Foundation Grant Project Final Report
2020/2021**

Project Name:	Increasing E-Resources for Displaced Residents
Report date:	7/13/21

Indicate whether the project is currently on track, at risk, or off track:

The project is currently on track.

Give a quick summary of your project status including budget (about 2-3 sentences):

Android tablets were purchased for patron checkouts, which included data paid for by the library. Twelve tablets and cases were purchased and distributed across the branches. The budget of \$17, 550 included the purchase of the tablets, data plans and more e-materials through Overdrive.

The key areas or milestones achieved (Choose what you've been working on the most since starting or your last update):

The tablets have been checked out more in the Chico and Oroville locations, but have seen use in all communities. The library has been promoting them at various events, like the Roadshow partnership with Literacy in April.

Add a high-level overview of each key area:

Give attention to any issues or challenges the project has run into:

Some patrons find the instructions difficult and wish the tablets could be allowed a longer lending period, giving them longer time to learn how to use the device.

Include additional notes or highlights (These could be a list of next steps, kudos you want to give someone, or anything else you want to highlight):

Next step would be to continue to promote the tablet use at outreach events, social media, etc and to create promotional materials to distribute, especially in the Magalia/Paradise areas. When our mobile library goes live next year, these tablets would be a great item to have available for checkout to these patrons.

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Project Name:	Ready Where You Are
Report date:	7/13/21

Indicate whether the project is currently on track, at risk, or off track:

The project is currently on track.

Give a quick summary of your project status including budget (about 2-3 sentences):

The original idea of the grant was to conduct a social media campaign to promote the Paradise branch and getting physical materials from other branches, ILL, or through Zip program. Due to the pandemic, some of those options were no longer an option. The decision was made to purchase hotspots to be made available to those communities on the ridge, who may not have had internet, which became so much more necessary during COVID.

The key areas or milestones achieved (Choose what you've been working on the most since starting or your last update):

Six hotspots were purchased in January and distributed to the Paradise library. They have been checked out a total of 26 times, with all but 2 checkouts being Paradise patrons. These devices have been promoted at various events and locations, including the Roadshow partnership with Literacy in April.

Add a high-level overview of each key area:

Give attention to any issues or challenges the project has run into:

The biggest challenge is finding a good way to promote the devices. Promotional materials are being created so we can increase community awareness about these devices.

Include additional notes or highlights (These could be a list of next steps, kudos you want to give someone, or anything else you want to highlight):

This project has been very successful in the communities for which it was intended, especially given the increased need for internet services during the pandemic. We hope to reach even more patrons by promoting these devices and the tablets from another project both in the branch and on the mobile library when it launches next year.

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Project Name:	The Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club
Report date:	7/07/2021

Indicate whether the project is currently on track, at risk, or off track:

The project is on track

Give a quick summary of your project status including budget (about 2-3 sentences):

The Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club has become a valuable library family/youth program. The program successfully utilized all the funding to create and distribute take home kits to library patrons that homeschool. Due to the pandemic the program had to reinvent itself. The change from in person monthly meetings to monthly take home kits worked out well. Many families returned to the library each month asking for the new kit. Each kit had a theme to offer creative ideas and enrichment activities along with a suggested book list and e-resource list of library materials.

The key areas or milestones achieved (Choose what you've been working on the most since starting or your last update):

The Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club has proven its success, so much so that the Library Director has added it to the ongoing youth services programming. As the grant cycle has come to an end the Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club has distributed about 160 take home enrichment kits, with a travel theme June kit as the final kit.

Add a high-level overview of each key area:

The Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club grant funded program has ended, and will begin again as a library youth service program funded by Butte County Library in the Fall of 2021. The program will continue as The Curious Minds Homeschooling Club and will truly expand to include the Chico, Oroville, Gridley and Paradise branches.

Give attention to any issues or challenges the project has run into:

The main challenge this project faced was when the pandemic hit, I had to reinvent a way to connect and reach out to the homeschool community without in person meetings. The pandemic did cause some delay in getting the program going, but once the supplies were ordered, the resulting take home enrichment kits created an

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opportunity to continue to connect and serve the library homeschool families and actually brought families into the library.

Include additional notes or highlights (These could be a list of next steps, kudos you want to give someone, or anything else you want to highlight):

I would like to thank the L.A.B. Board for selecting the Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club and seeing that there was a need to create a library program to include the homeschool community. I would like to thank Librarian, Cynthia Pustejovsky for working with me to edit and fine tune the original Curious Minds Homeschooling Club and the Expanded Curious Minds Homeschooling Club grant applications, her guidance and knowledge were essential in submitting an informative NVCF/LAB grant proposal. I would also like to thank Librarian, Janae Kambestad for her creative feedback as we worked together to think through how to reinvent the program when the pandemic hit. Janae was a positive supportive sounding board and helped me focus my ideas and plans for the take home kits. I especially want to thank Library Director, Narinder Sufi for her bright energy and appreciation of the Curious Minds Homeschooling Club from it's very beginning. Through Narinder's decision to add the Curious Minds Homeschooling Club to the library youth services programs, the unmet needs of the Butte County homeschool community has been addressed and the Butte County Library Youth Services has become more inclusive. Here's to always looking forward with curiosity