

**READ FROM THE START
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007

(Applications must be received at Heartland Foundation by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.)

For parents and caregivers of preschool-age children, **READ from the START** provides access to skills that promote a lifelong love of reading. In partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, Heartland Foundation offers **READ from the START** in our 30-county service region of northwest Missouri and bordering counties in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. Applications are accepted from eligible counties of northwest Missouri and adjacent counties in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska (please see the application sheet for a complete list of eligible counties).

The intent of the program is to encourage parents and caregivers of very young children, **who may not already read to their children**, to understand the value of reading to children from birth. **READ from the START** teaches at-risk parents the value of reading aloud to their children and provides tips for adding impact to their stories. Parents also receive information about early childhood development including the latest research on the lifetime success rates of those who are exposed to reading at an early age. The format for the program is two 90-minute sessions at an interval of one to two weeks.

Benefits of READ from the START:

- Builds and strengthens bonds between parents or caregivers and children
- Promotes a lifelong interest in reading and learning
- Helps prepare children to do well in school

Heartland Foundation provides:

- A trained facilitator to conduct the **READ from the START** program
- All participants with a gift of specially selected children's books

Heartland Foundation is now accepting applications from not-for-profit groups that have an interest in hosting a READ from the START program in their community. To apply please complete the application and return by mail or fax to:

Heartland Foundation
3620 Frederick Ave, St. Joseph Missouri 64506
Fax 816 271-7269

The **READ from the START** Stewardship Council bases its decisions on individual merits of the application and the benefit of the program to potential participants. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Karen Acord at Heartland Foundation, 816 271-7859 or 800 447-1083.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE EVERY CHILD IS READ TO AT AN EARLY AGE.

Please provide the following information (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Host not-for-profit group _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

(Please include city, state, zip)

Business Telephone with area code _____

Contact Person/Title _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

Evening Phone _____

Email Address _____

Complete Mailing Address (if different than above) _____

(Please include city, state, zip)

Requested month and time of day for Sessions: _____

A minimum of 12 participants is required for the READ from the START program, with a maximum of 20 participants. **READ from the START** is especially designed for those who could benefit most from learning the value of reading to children from a very early age. **Host groups are responsible for promoting READ from the START and doing the outreach necessary for recruiting the minimum of twelve participants. Please describe your intended audience and what you will do to ensure the minimum number of participants.**

Why is READ from the START an important program for your audience? How do you see the program making a difference for your community?

To ensure a successful program, we ask the host group to provide the following. Please indicate your commitment by checking the adjacent box.

Comfortable, familiar program location for a **minimum** of 12 participants:

Please indicate location _____

Childcare (if requested by participants), in an area **separate** from program setting

Light refreshments

Are you willing to participate in a follow-up evaluation and outcomes tracking process? Yes No

Has this site hosted a RFTS program previously? _____ **If yes, when?** _____

Please circle your county: The Heartland Foundation service region includes the following counties: Andrew (MO), Atchison (MO), Atchison (KS), Brown (KS), Buchanan (MO), Caldwell (MO), Carroll (MO), Clay (MO), Clinton (MO), Daviess (MO), Decatur (IA), DeKalb (MO), Doniphan (KS), Fremont (IA), Gentry (MO), Grundy (MO), Harrison (MO), Holt (MO), Livingston (MO), Mercer (MO), Nemaha (KS), Nemaha (NE), Nodaway (MO), Page (IA), Platte (MO), Ray (MO), Richardson (NE), Ringgold (IA), Taylor (IA), and Worth (MO).

Our intent is to provide *READ from the START* programs for the benefit of children throughout our service region. If you are interested in underwriting a portion of the costs of the program, please give us a call. *Financial contribution is NOT a consideration in selection of sites for READ from the START.*

**Completed applications are accepted no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at
Heartland Foundation, 3620 Frederick Ave, St Joseph MO 64506.**