



Read On Arizona is a statewide, public/private partnership of agencies, philanthropic organizations and community stakeholders committed to determining the gaps, identifying solutions, and implementing a collaborative approach to improving language and literacy outcomes for Arizona's children ages birth through the end of third grade.

Read On Arizona envisions a future where Arizona children have the skills they need to read, learn and succeed in college, career and life. To make this vision a reality, Read On Arizona brings strategic leadership, collaboration, and resources to effectively drive towards results.

The cornerstone of Read On Arizona's approach is hands-on, purposeful collaboration with nonprofits, school districts, educators, government, and community leaders who share our commitment to and focus on achieving ambitious school readiness and third-grade reading outcomes for children.

In Arizona we are working to improve early literacy outcomes by transforming the way partners work together.

In the next phase of our collective work we are focused on exploring how we can accelerate progress towards the goal of eliminating the literacy gap for economically disadvantaged students in Arizona.

Read On Arizona is pleased to announce, thanks to partial funding and supports provided by the **Arizona Community Foundation** and the **Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Unit**, the opportunity for Read On Communities/Partners to participate in the **Acceleration Zone Project**.

ACCELERATION ZONE PROJECT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

Due: Monday, July 30, 2018 by 5pm

READ ON ARIZONA'S ACCELERATION ZONE PROJECT: *Catalysts for Scaling Impact and Building Community Resiliency*

Read On Arizona invites collaborative teams to apply for the Acceleration Zone Project. A cohort model, the Acceleration Zone Project seeks to build the capacity of change makers who are interested in leading the charge for effective, equitable, and accelerated early literacy results in their communities. The project will harness the power of collaboration through a "reflect and adapt" process incorporating strategies that will inform next steps to delivering scalable impact focused on school readiness and/or early literacy in identified Acceleration Zones. Participants will take part in a shared learning cohort with colleagues from around the state to delve into understanding their own success and others, analyze results, and share lessons learned about data, contributing factors to success, and policy support needed for successful implementation to scale their work.

Read On Arizona will select up to three Acceleration Zones. The Acceleration Zone team members will convene at least 10 times, virtually and in-person, over the course of 36-months. Zone team members will receive bi-monthly coaching, virtually, to support their successful participation. Read On Arizona will cover the cost of the Acceleration Zone team members to participate in the Acceleration Zone Project.

The Acceleration Zone Project includes four stages:

- ★ **Stage I: Join the Acceleration Zone Cohort Network of engaged and visionary practitioners.** Team members will engage in a learning community--sharing best practices and informing their own work. Includes: ongoing Technical Assistance (TA), coaching/mentoring, bi-monthly support calls, opportunities to plan/host partner meetings, and opportunities to host their own "Acceleration Zone Share Out Summits" with local communities.
- ★ **Stage II: *Data Analysis Institutes* (Implementation partners include: the Maricopa County Association of Governments, Dynamic Analysis)** Team members will engage in "Take a Walk on the Data Side 2.0" sessions to understand results, root cause and a theory of change surrounding participant's school readiness and/or third-grade reading outcomes. Zone team members will be guided through in-depth data analysis for their unique community context on what is working and why, leading factors of success, and informed by their analysis, will select areas of customized technical assistance as they move to Stage III.
- ★ **Stage III: *What Works Seminars* (Implementation partners include: Arizona Department of Education, First Things First, and more)** Team members will engage in customized TA to act as a catalyst or accelerant. Read On Arizona seeks to build capacity and conduct much needed analysis on "What Works: The Why and the How" so communities can double-down on the bold but achievable goal of reaching Arizona's third-grade Progress Meter goals. These may include Lectio Training or Results Count Leadership development, KDI/K-3 Formative Assessment, Chronic Absenteeism interventions, or targeted Family Engagement professional development (i.e., Smart Talk for Families, Language and Literacy and the Social Emotional Connection, or Effective Summer Reading Strategies.)
- ★ **Stage IV: *Policy Environmental Scan/Action Planning Connected to Literacy Efforts*** Team members will actively engage in identifying a policy action plan that can be integrated with existing strategies to help support successful implementation.

Key Dates:

Call for Applications:

May-July 2018; Due: July 30th

Selection/Notification

of Acceleration Zones:

September 2018

Initial Convening:

Data Analysis Institutes begin:

November 2018

What Works Seminars begin:

February 2019

Ongoing virtual sessions/convenings:

Begin October 2018

Reflection and Planning for the

Share Out Summits:

Summer 2019

Policy Sessions begin:

September 2020

The above will be accomplished through a series of in-person and virtual convenings, collaborative coaching and site visits from Read On Arizona, implementation partners and content experts.

Participants of the three (3) zones of the Acceleration Zone Cohort Network over the course of the project will:

- ★ “Share and reflect” with other Acceleration Zone members.
- ★ Build knowledge and skill around acceleration success.
- ★ Utilize research and data to understand factors contributing to acceleration of reading proficiency for economically disadvantaged students up through third grade.
- ★ Conduct in-depth research and analysis to design the next stage of implementation work for their zone.
- ★ Actively engage in a learning community, sharing effective practices and informing their own strategies around improving early literacy and language outcomes and minimizing/eliminating the proficiency gap between economically disadvantaged students and all students.
- ★ Host “Share Out Summits” in their own zone as part of a shared learning process.
- ★ Participate and give feedback through an annual self-assessment survey, focus groups and other evaluation methods to help ensure the Acceleration Zone meets the needs of participants.

Criteria for Eligibility as an Acceleration Zone:

- ★ Must be focused on improving school readiness and/or k-3 reading outcomes.
- ★ Must demonstrate strength in leadership to support an Accelerated Collaborative Process.
- ★ Must demonstrate strength in leadership reflection.
- ★ Will identify bright spots in your community that have a positive trend towards increasing school readiness or early literacy K-3.
- ★ Must be a Read On Community or have submitted an application to become a Read On Community.
- ★ Must have collaborative partners (no less than 10 and no more than 30) willing to participate as part of your Acceleration Zone Team over the next 12-36 months.
- ★ Must serve students and families with the highest need.
- ★ Preference will be given to communities that completed the 2017 Read On Arizona Survey. (However, we will review all received applications, and all interested Read On Communities are encouraged to apply.)
- ★ An Acceleration Zone may be comprised of more than one Read On Community if the team members included in the application reflect all the acceleration zones in those communities.

After receiving all necessary documents, three (3) Acceleration Zones will be selected to be members of the Acceleration Zone Cohort Network.

Acceleration Zone Project: Guide to a Successful Application

In order to deeply influence and impact early literacy around the state, we strongly believe that a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach is essential. We encourage team members to center their work within a specific area in their community or zone that has demonstrated a positive trend of increasing school readiness or reading results for economically disadvantaged students at a faster rate than the “all students” group for their indicator or have closed or nearly closed the gap.

We ask that you think strategically about the ideal team to lead your Acceleration Zone efforts within your community, and we request that you submit an application for those team members. As you put your team together, we recommend considering the following roles to build a well-rounded team for each phase:

- ★ **DATA ANALYSIS TEAM:** consisting of data representatives from your literacy continuum, including but not limited to ECE or LEA site representatives, municipality representatives, community non-profit partner(s), curriculum and instruction directors, etc.
- ★ **WHAT WORKS SEMINAR TEAM:** consisting of representatives from ECE, local LEAs (teacher, administrator, curriculum director), community non-profits, existing Read On Team members, parent liaison, etc.
- ★ **POLICY SCAN/PLAN TEAM:** identify potential team members to be identified after completion of Stage I and Stage II. Team members can be advocacy partners, family representatives, site or school leader, non-profit community partner(s), etc.

READ ON ARIZONA VALUES:

- Data-driven decision making
- Effective, research-informed strategies
- Collaboration and intentional alignment and leveraging of existing services and resources
- Quality, effectiveness, and fidelity of implementation
- Impact and continuous improvement for all

Collaboration Focused on Equity

Read On Arizona believes that every child deserves an excellent education and that families, educators and practitioners are partners and assets in supporting a child’s success. In order to work towards our mission, Read On Arizona is committed to partnering with all stakeholders who value and engage in equitable practices and opportunities.

The Acceleration Zone Project seeks to partner with those who are committed to the state’s ambitious and visionary goal of achieving 90% proficiency for ALL STUDENTS by 2039.

READ ON ARIZONA'S ACCELERATION ZONE PROJECT: *Catalysts for Scaling Impact and Building Community Resiliency*

APPLICATION

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS DUE MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018 BY 5:00PM

Interested Read On Communities should complete the written application below, including supplemental materials.

Please include the following:

- ☐ **One per zone:** Responses to application questions below (3 pages or less)
- ☐ **One for each team leader** for the Acceleration Zone (the overall team leader and three others in the areas of Data, Customized TA, Policy):
 - **Short Bio**
 - **Personal Statement of Interest that answers the following questions:**
 - What do you hope to get out of being part of the Acceleration Zone Project?
 - What assets do you bring to your Acceleration Zone team and to the cohort overall?
 - What change efforts, if any, have you been a part of/led in the past?
- ☐ **Completed Team Member list**
- ☐ **One letter of support**

Submit completed applications to Cathy Freericks, Acceleration Zone Project Manager, at:
cfreericks@readonarizona.org | attention: Acceleration Zone Project Application Submission

QUESTIONS

Question 1: Capacity to Analyze, Share Learning and Accelerate Progress

Please explain what you believe it would take to successfully accelerate early literacy in your community. In your response, address the following:

- ★ Why are you applying to become a Read On Arizona Acceleration Zone?
- ★ What areas, sites or schools will be targeted as part of your Acceleration Zone and why?
- ★ What enabling factors and potential barriers do you currently see related to your early literacy work?

Question 2: Data-Driven Decision-making

Please explain the connection you see between root cause analysis and early literacy outcomes in your community. In your response, address the following:

- ★ How have you used data to inform strategies up to now? Give an example of how your use of data drove a specific strategy? Cite specific evidence and actions where possible.

Question 3: Collaboration Focused On Early Literacy

Please describe the current state of early literacy in your community, including any major successes or setbacks from your Read On work. In your response, please be sure to address the following:

- ★ Describe the level of collaboration you currently have and how that will support your participation as an Acceleration Zone in the Cohort Network. What do you feel will help you determine what could accelerate impact in your community in the next phase of your work?
 - ★ What does successful participation in the Acceleration Zone Project look like or what would you most like to get out of being an Acceleration Zone participant?
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TEAM MEMBERS

1. Acceleration Zone Team Members/Leads

Please submit a list of team member(s) who will be participating in each stage of the Acceleration Zone Project and their potential roles (include name, title, organization and email contact information):

Acceleration Zone Lead(s):

Title:

Organization

Email:

Acceleration Zone Lead(s):

Title:

Organization

Email:

2. Acceleration Zone Data Analysis Team Members (up to 10)

Data Team Lead:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

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(Note: If you have multiple Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in your zone you may want to list team members from each site or district or a cluster of schools as members of your team along with community data partners.) _____

3. Acceleration Zone: What Works Customized TA Team Members (up to 10)

What Works Customized Technical Assistance

Team Lead:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

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(Note: Please identify participants based on the areas of need in TA that you currently understand for your zone.)

Areas of Interest for Technical Assistance (mark as many as may apply):

☐ Chronic Absenteeism Interventions

☐ Collective Impact

☐ Continuum of Effective Literacy
Practices Technical Assistance

☐ Family Engagement Professional
Development (i.e., Smart Talk, etc.)

☐ Habits of a Systems Thinker

☐ Inclusion Best Practices

☐ KDI/K-3 Formative Assessment
Training/Support

☐ Leadership Development (i.e., Results Count)

☐ Lectio Program Design Evaluation
Tool/Implementation Science/
Improvement Strategies

☐ School Readiness Strategies

☐ Language/Literacy and the Social
Emotional Connection to Academic
Skills

☐ Out of School Time/Summer
Reading

☐ Other _____

4. Acceleration Zone Policy Scan/Plan Team Members (up to 10)

Policy Plan/Scan Team Lead:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

Email:

Member:

Title:

Organization

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Member:

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LETTER OF SUPPORT

Please provide at least one (1) letter of support.

Letter(s) of support should highlight why your Read On Community is a strong fit for the Acceleration Zone Project and how it is going to connect to your ongoing Read On work.

Consider asking one of the members of your Read On community/Acceleration Zone: a city/county/state official, a school, early childhood or a community partner. Select someone that can best demonstrate or tell the story of your community's successful participation relating to use of data, collaboration, accelerating progress, or policy interests/needs, as well as your community's commitment to early literacy.

(Note: Your letter of support should come from someone other than one of your Read On team members.)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ *One per team leader (4 total):* Short Bio
- ☐ *One per team leader (4 total):* Personal Interest Statement – max 1 page
- ☐ One per zone: Responses to all application questions – max 3 pages
- ☐ Completed Team Member List
- ☐ Letter of Support(s) for your Acceleration Zone Application
- ☐ All materials submitted by 5pm on July 30, 2018 via email to cfreericks@readonarizona.org

THANK YOU

Thank you for your application! We're excited to have your application considered as part of the Acceleration Zone Project. Applicants will be notified in September 2018.

As part of the consideration process Zone Applicants that make it to the final round will be asked to participate in a 30 minute application review process virtually to ensure that we have all the information necessary for final consideration of your application.

(Note: your Zone Team Lead and 2-3 members of your group should be present for the virtual application review. You will be given options for dates/times.)