



# Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Science on Wheels Grant

1. **Purpose:**

Science on Wheels has been serving students and schools, as well as the larger community, for over 40 years. Science on Wheels travels to communities throughout Washington state and the Pacific Northwest bringing interactive science, math, and engineering curriculum to students, teachers, and families.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Science on Wheels uses legislative funding to provide science and STEM programming in schools and community settings and supporting science education offered to schools in Washington State. FY20 funding provided support for the development of computer science programming and the outfitting of a new van.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Schools must be designated as Title I in order to receive discounted or free services.

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	None
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	None
<b>Number of Students:</b>	None
<b>Number of Educators:</b>	None
<b>Other:</b> Advisory Educators	10

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 0 FTE

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 0

<b>FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:</b>	\$250,000
<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0
<b>Other fund sources:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL (FY20)</b>	\$250,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

Yes, please explain.

*If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...*

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY20	\$250,000	\$66,092

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Advisory Educators</b>
FY20	10

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

None

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Support from OSPI made possible significant advances in the development of the new computer science program. Funded staff time moved the project development along in a significant fashion, allowing workshops and exhibit interactives to be drafted and revised with input from the advisory group and prototype sessions.

Prototype sessions provided valuable formative assessments, helping staff revise and improve the activities through the prototyping process.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Worked ceased in mid-March 2020 due to closures of schools by the Pacific Science Center in adherence to public health guidelines for COVID-19. Scheduled school visits were all cancelled. Additionally, due to supplier limitations caused by Covid-19, delivery of two of the major purchases could not be completed during the fiscal year. As a result, OSPI funds were not used. The physical vehicle and a set of laptops for workshops will be received and paid for by the proviso funding for the 20-21 school year. Science on Wheels staff were furloughed and there was a significant reduction in Pacific Science Center staff causing impacts to the program development and implementation.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Development work on the new computer science program will benefit students across Washington State in this coming year and in future years. Exhibits and programming developed in this fiscal year are ready for use in this coming year.

With the move to online learning for many schools and districts in Washington, *Science On Wheels* programming will be virtual during the fall of 2020, broadcasting from a newly equipped studio space at PacSci. Existing *Science On Wheels* activities and demonstrations will be utilized in new combinations to provide engaging virtual programming to classrooms and schools.

When development is resumed after the COVID-19 related closures, there are several key areas of work to be done. Prototyping of workshops will continue, allowing the curriculum to be finalized, and workshop materials will be packaged into travel cases. Exhibit fabrication will take place, and the large group assembly will be finalized. A key area of future work will be the packaging systems to ensure the tech-heavy materials are protected and able to be easily charged while traveling in this outreach program.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6168, Sec. 520 (18) \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation in fiscal year 2020 and \$130,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to continue providing science on wheels activities in schools and other community settings. Funding is provided to develop a new computer science program and outfit a van with program resources in order to expand statewide outreach.

12. **Other relevant information:**

Because Science on Wheels is an outreach program and schools typically book school visits in the springtime and with the long term school closures impacting the state, the program had to shut down. No schools (students, teachers, or communities) were served. Between March and June, nearly all of the *Science On Wheels* staff were furloughed. Combined with the reduction in the PacSci center workforce, less progress was made on development of the computer science program after March 2020 than anticipated at the beginning of the grant period.

Science on Wheels was able to work with an Advisory team of educators to “beta” test the new curriculum so that it is ready in the 2020-2021 school year for full implementation. Their assistance and critical feedback enabled Science on Wheels staff to ready the new learning materials.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

Name: Ellen Ebert, Ph.D.

Title: Director, Learning and Teaching Science and Environmental and Sustainability Education

Phone: 360-725-4962

Email: ellen.ebert@k12.wa.us