# “Kids Read Free” pilot program

In an effort to promote children’s literacy and access to books, PLS and OWWL libraries are launching a pilot program to allow juvenile patrons fine-free book circulations.

**Dates**

* Applications due October 25, 2017
* Awards announced November 1, 2017
* Start date January 1, 2018 to conclude December 31, 2018

**Pilot Program Requirements**

* Juvenile patrons will be able to borrow book (print and audiobook) materials fine free
  + Juvenile age defined per library
  + Fine-free status based on birth date; no updating patron records or item records necessary
  + When a patron ages out of the juvenile threshold, their fine free status will automatically ‘expire’
  + Fine free borrowing limited to libraries that have juvenile fine free circulation rules
* 10 libraries will be selected to receive grant funding from PLS (any library may opt into the juvenile fine-free program)
* Grant funding is $1000 to apply toward recouping money from forgiven fines, purchasing materials such as stickers, special juvenile fine free patron cards, marketing materials, etc.
* Participating libraries will commit to board and staff buy-in
* Participating libraries will provide staff training
* Participating libraries will commit to clearing existing fines on active juvenile patron accounts
* Participating libraries will discuss their experiences with the pilot program at a System Meeting
* PLS will facilitate pre- and post-pilot program library staff focus groups, to identify issues prior to the pilot start, and to review outcomes after the pilot conclusion

**Selection criteria**

* Libraries that are committed to meet Pilot Program Requirements
* Libraries that have not already implemented a fine-free program
* Libraries that represent a broad range of our members, by region, community demographics, library size

**Outcomes**

* Circulation increases for juvenile patrons - PLS will run circulation data before and after the pilot program
* Improved perception of library borrowing experience - Feedback and anecdotal changes based on pre- and post-pilot program focus group

# “Kids Read Free” pilot program application

Application deadline October 25

Complete form and submit to Lindsay Stratton, [lstratton@pls-net.org](mailto:lstratton@pls-net.org)

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| Library name |  | | | | |
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| Director |  | | | | |
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| I agree to: | | | | | |
| * Two staff focus groups, before and after the pilot (facilitated by PLS staff) | |  |  |  |  |
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| * Train staff in relevant customer service issues and Evergreen tasks | |  |  |  |  |
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| * Report our experiences at a System Meeting | |  |  |  |  |
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| Why are you interested in this fine free program? | | | | | |
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| What would define successful or positive outcomes for your library? | | | | | |
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