



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Mulkey
lmulkey@lplearningcenter.org
208-577-1105

Lee Pesky Learning Center Finds Viable Pay for Success Approach to Improving Literacy

Feasibility report concludes viability of innovative financing strategy to scale professional development services that improve early literacy outcomes

BOISE, Idaho (October 3, 2017) – Lee Pesky Learning Center (LPLC), a dedicated teaching and research organization with the vision to create a path to learning for every child, has issued a [report assessing the feasibility of using Pay for Success to scale its evidence-based Idaho Early Literacy Project](#). LPLC determined that it is viable to leverage Pay for Success, an innovative social impact financing and contracting mechanism, to scale professional development services that improve early literacy outcomes. The report made four recommendations to guide LPLC's Pay for Success strategy. Consequently, Lee Pesky Learning Center is moving forward into the structuring phase of its Pay for Success project.

Jurisdictions in the U.S. and abroad are leveraging Pay for Success to scale evidence-based interventions that deliver measurable social outcomes to vulnerable populations. As a contracting mechanism, Pay for Success is a tool for governmental entities to procure for social outcomes instead of solely social services. Furthermore, Pay for Success sets up service providers to implement evidence-based interventions to achieve meaningful and appropriate social outcomes.

LPLC provides effective, evidence-based literacy professional development to Pre-K providers serving students at high-risk, resulting in more children entering Kindergarten ready to read. Continued professional development provided to teachers of Kindergarten through second grade supports children in maintaining their grade level proficiency. It also helps avoid the need for reading remediation in Kindergarten through third grades, as well as special education remediation for reading, beginning in third grade.

LPLC completed the assessment of its early literacy professional development intervention with a feasibility grant and significant technical support from the Sorenson Impact Center, housed at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business. The grant is part of a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) program funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

As a result of this feasibility assessment, LPLC is launching a project to scale its early literacy professional development services statewide, beginning with a demonstration

project targeting private Pre-K providers located within the boundaries of the West Ada School District during the 2017-2018 academic year.

LPLC was recently awarded a grant from Sorenson Impact Center and Social Finance, also funded through a 2016 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund, which includes both technical assistance and a cash component, to undertake the demonstration project and to structure a Pay for Success transaction that could scale these services statewide over the following three years.

More information about the structuring grant may be found here:

<https://www.newswise.com/articles/the-sorenson-impact-center-and-social-finance-announce-awardees-of-pay-for-success-structuring-grant>

You may access the full Pay for Success feasibility report by clicking [here](#).

##

About Lee Pesky Learning Center

LPLC is a creative, entrepreneurial, and dedicated teaching and research organization with the vision to create a path to learning for every child. Building upon a deep specialization in learning and attention challenges, they pursue their core mission – working with students, families, schools and communities to understand and overcome obstacles to learning through individualized learning services, training and consultation, educational resources, and research. Over the past 20 years, LPLC contributed over \$30 million in specialized learning services to children, families, and teachers across Idaho through generous supporters and grant funding. For more information on LPLC and its impact, please read the Center's [2016 annual report](#), [website](#) and recent [media coverage](#).

About the Sorenson Impact Center

The [Sorenson Impact Center](#), housed at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business, is a think-and-do tank that marshals capital for social good, empowers data-driven programs, breaks down silos across sectors, and equips the next generation of leaders with social purpose. To learn more, visit www.sorensonimpact.com



About the Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the federal agency for volunteering, service, and civic engagement. The agency engages millions of Americans in citizen service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit NationalService.gov. The Social Innovation (SIF) was a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service that received funding from 2010 to 2016. Using public and private resources to find and grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of results, SIF intermediaries received funding to award subgrants that focus on overcoming challenges in economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. Although CNCS made its last SIF intermediary awards in fiscal year 2016,



SIF intermediaries will continue to administer their subgrant programs until their federal funding is exhausted.