Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About The Kemper Foundation
The Kemper Foundation is the philanthropic partner of Kemper Corporation. Through community outreach and financial support, we aim to strengthen our communities and make a meaningful difference in people's lives. We support causes and non-profit organizations advancing our three focus areas of education, health and community development.

Q: What is the Read Conmigo program?
A: Read Conmigo is The Kemper Foundation's bilingual educator grant program for elementary (K-5 and transitional kindergarten) teachers in Spanish-English bilingual classroom settings. Annually, up to 100 grants of $3,000 will be awarded for classroom tools, resources and materials, and professional development opportunities.

Q: Why is The Kemper Foundation giving grants to benefit Spanish-English bilingual education teachers?
A: The Kemper Foundation endorses the distinct educational, social and financial benefits of bilingualism in Hispanic and Latino families. Read Conmigo grants are focused on advancing bilingual literacy by giving teachers much-needed resources for improved learning opportunities.

Q: Where are Read Conmigo grants available?
A: Read Conmigo grants are available to eligible bilingual teachers in the following locations:
- California: the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura
- Florida**:** Miami-Dade County
- Texas: Dallas County

Q: Does this Read Conmigo program allow me to get free books?
A: At this time, the focus of the Read Conmigo program is on bilingual educator grants. We'll have more information on the availability of digital books later this year, when we unveil our new Read Conmigo website. We encourage you to check back with us then.

Q: I have feedback or a suggestion about the Read Conmigo Program. Where can I send it?
A: Please e-mail readconmigo@thekemperfoundation.org to send feedback and suggestions.

Eligibility
Q: Who is eligible to apply for a Read Conmigo grant?
A: Eligibility requirements:
- Must be employed by an accredited K-5 public or charter school as a licensed teacher in a Spanish-English bilingual class setting in:
  - California: the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino or Ventura
  - Florida**:** Miami-Dade County
  - Texas: Dallas County
- Transitional kindergarten educators are eligible to apply for grants.
- A minimum of two years' prior teaching experience in a Spanish-English bilingual class setting at a public or charter school by the end of the school year during which a grant application is submitted.
- At least 50% of teaching time must be dedicated to providing group instruction to students (one-on-one instructional time does not count toward this time requirement).
- Teachers who are immediate family members of employees of the Kemper family of insurance companies are not eligible to receive a grant. The Kemper family of companies includes Kemper Corporation, Kemper Auto, Infinity, a Kemper Company (CA), Kemper Personal Insurance, Kemper Health, and Kemper Life.

Please review our [Eligibility Requirements](#) for more information.

Grant Usage
Q: What are the Read Conmigo grants intended to fund?
A: The intention of the Read Conmigo grant program is to provide funds for teachers of Spanish-English bilingual classes for tools, resources and supplies, as well as professional development opportunities. Items approved for funding include:
- Classroom resources and materials that support bilingual learning (e.g., supplies, books, lesson plans, technology, and field trips)
- Professional development instruction, training, conferences, seminars or materials, including books or curriculum-related references
- See full Grant Usage Guidelines [here](#).

Q: What is excluded from Read Conmigo grant funding?

A: This program does **not** provide funding for general operations, capital projects, endowments, fundraising events or similar activities, religious or political projects, teaching assistants, funding for personal use, summer projects, non-bilingual program club activities, salaries, facility maintenance or education research.

Q: In what period of time do the grant funds need to be used?
A: The funds must be used by the end of the academic year in which the grant is awarded for fall grant recipients, and by July 31 for spring grant recipients.

Q: Can funds still be used if a teacher leaves their school or changes schools before the end of the academic year after being awarded a grant?
A: If a teacher leaves their school or moves to a different school before the end of the academic year, they must notify The Kemper Foundation as soon as possible or within 10 days of giving notice to their current school. Unused grant funding may need to be returned to The Kemper Foundation; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What happens if the grant money is not spent in its entirety by the deadline?
A: If a teacher is unable to utilize all the grant funds by the fund usage deadline, any leftover funds may be reallocated to the school at the discretion of The Kemper Foundation.

Please review our [Grant Usage Guidelines](#) for more information.

Application-Related
Q: What is the deadline for the grant application process?
A: Application submission deadlines are listed on [The Kemper Foundation website](#) and in the Read Conmigo Grant Eligibility Requirements. **The current deadline for application submissions for the spring 2023 cycle is November 27, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. local time.**

Q: Can I apply for a Read Conmigo grant in the fall and spring during the same academic year?
A: No, teachers can apply for only one grant per academic school year.

Q: How does a teacher begin the grant application process?
A: Click the "Apply Now" link found on [The Kemper Foundation website](#). This links to the application portal, where you will create a username and password to begin the process. Details and instructions will be provided on the platform.

Q: Whom do I contact for technical issues on the application portal?

A: When you log into the application portal, there is a "Contact Support" button at the top of the page. Click on this button and submit a ticket for technical support. Also, while you are filling out the application, there is a "Need Assistance" option at the bottom of the page where you can email your issue or chat about it.

Q: What if I forget my password for the application portal?
A: The login page of the application portal offers a live chat tool where you can request help with resetting your password. You do not need to be logged in for the tool to work.

Q: Can an applicant review their application in its entirety before submission?
A: Yes, you can review the information in your application at any time during the process by logging into the grant portal and accessing your application.

Q: Can I download a copy of my completed grant application?
A: Yes, there is an option to download the application from your applicant dashboard at any point during the process.

Q: Can an incomplete grant application be saved and returned to at a later time?
A: Yes, your application is automatically saved, and you can return to your application by logging into the application portal with your username and password.

Q: How is grant status being communicated to applicants?
A: Applicants will receive communications at specific points in the grant selection process:
- Upon submitting a completed grant application, applicants will receive a confirmation email.
- After consideration by our grant selection committee, applicants will receive an emailed notification indicating the decision on their grant application. This decision will be communicated within 50 calendar days of the grant application deadline.

Q: When should applicants contact The Kemper Foundation in the application process?
A: The Foundation should be contacted if applicants have technical difficulties or questions while submitting an application, or if a grant decision has not been provided within 50 calendar days after the application deadline. The Kemper Foundation can be contacted at readconmigo@thekemperfoundation.org.

Grant Process
Q: What is the selection process for awarding a grant?

A: After the submission deadline, a selection committee comprised of officers from The Kemper Foundation and Read Conmigo program partners will review the submitted eligible applications and identify the grant recipients. Schools will be required to confirm recipients' employment, and the selected recipients will need to complete grant acceptance forms in the application portal, and in some cases attach a W-9 form (if funding will be provided for professional development).

Q: How are the grants distributed?
A: Once recipients have completed the grant acceptance forms and submitted a W-9 form if required, The Kemper Foundation will issue funds to recipients either through an electronic or physical check sent through the United States Postal Service, depending on the recipient's preference.

Q: Is feedback available to an applicant for a declined grant request?
A: The Kemper Foundation is unable to provide each applicant specific feedback beyond what is included in the decision communication.

Q: Does the Foundation accept Letters of Intent (LOI)?
A: No, Letters of Intent are not required for this process.

Reporting Requirements for Grant Recipients
Q: Are there reporting requirements for teachers that receive grants?
A: Yes, teachers receiving grants will be required to provide The Kemper Foundation with a grant outcome report including a summary of how the grant funds were utilized and receipts for items purchased. All grant recipients will receive a report request from The Kemper Foundation by email 30 days before the conclusion of the school year. Fall grant recipients must complete and submit the report before the final day of the academic year. Spring grant recipients must complete and submit the report by July 31.