

# READ USA COLLABORATION GUIDE

Collaboration is in our DNA.



































































## **READ USA Community Partnerships**

READ USA embraces a collective impact approach to driving workforce readiness in teens and achieving grade-level reading proficiency in elementary students across Duval County. Since READ USA was founded in 2015, robust partnerships with organizations across all sectors have grown and strengthened, furthering our momentum to impact more students and teens every year.

### **Driving Workforce Development Through Literacy Tutoring**

Ever since the launch of READ USA's Literacy Tutoring program in 2019, made possible with pilot funding from Kids Hope Alliance, Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) and Kids Hope Alliance continue to be vital partners in making our mission and work possible.

READ USA's Literacy Tutoring model drives our Workforce Development outcomes. We recruit, train, and pay teenagers – a majority of whom are high school-aged DCPS students – to deliver one-to-one Literacy Tutoring to elementary students who are struggling to read. With in-themoment support from teachers who are trained and paid by READ USA, teen tutors utilize a proven, evidence-based literacy curriculum and gain valuable workforce skills during their service with READ USA.

Funding from Kids Hope Alliance, AmeriCorps, Volunteer Florida, the Mandelblatt Foundation, Michael Ward & Jennifer Glock, Ellen & Jim Wiss, and others have enabled READ USA to leverage those dollars to bring additional grants and funding to the school district and the students we serve.

Together, READ USA and our partners are equipping the workforce of tomorrow.

#### 2019-2024 Reach

1,700+

4,600+

370+

Tutors recruited

Students served

Teachers employed





### Ready to Work, Prepared to Succeed

READ USA's teen tutors become workforce ready through our Literacy Tutoring program. Multiple organizations maximize the impact of our Workforce Development programming, either through partnership, funding, or in-kind support.

AmeriCorps service, through Volunteer Florida, not only provides financial benefits to our teen tutors – such as a living allowance and education stipend, among others – but also provides development opportunities centered around service to community. From CPR and first aid to disaster response and citizenship training, our teen tutors are prepared to work with children and others who have critical needs. READ USA also has the largest number of AmeriCorps members in the state of Florida.

CareerSource Northeast Florida is a leader in workforce development, helping organizations like READ USA build pipelines of talent for virtually any career. CareerSource invests in READ

USA's teen tutors through a grant that supplements tutor pay, further helping our teen tutors be prepared to pursue any career they choose.

AT&T's partnership has enabled READ USA to provide training for teen tutors to understand and navigate digital tools that are necessary to thrive in today's workforce. Through grant funding, AT&T's ongoing investment in our teens' digital literacy is helping them stay ahead of the technology curve.

VyStar Credit Union has been a long-time partner, providing in-kind financial literacy services and support to our teen tutors. From opening and managing what are usually their first bank accounts to understanding how finances work, VyStar helps ensure our tutors are prepared to financially manage adulthood. The VyStar Foundation also continues to be a financial supporter of our mission.

The University of North Florida (UNF) and READ USA formed a partnership that is helping build a stronger teacher pipeline. READ USA is an approved program in the Osprey Teacher Residency Program in the Silverfield College of Education and Human Services, where future teachers can earn practicum hours through our Literacy Tutoring program. We also work with UNF to provide scholarships to deserving students.

Join us in our mission by partnering with READ USA!

Contact Dr. Robert H. Kelly, Jr., READ USA President & CEO, at rob@readusainc.com to learn more.

## Grade-Level Reading Campaign

READ USA is proud to be a foundational partner in the creation, launch, ongoing facilitation, and impact of READ JAX, Duval County's local Grade-Level Reading Campaign.

READ USA serves as a vehicle to deliver innovative programming, including Book Choice & Ownership, Literacy Tutoring, Family Engagement, and Professional Development for Educators, to students and teachers in our community – all of which are focused on closing the literacy gap.





### **Volunteer with READ USA!**



READ USA has multiple, year-round opportunities to impact the lives of students across Duval County through volunteerism.



Visit our website to learn more and sign up to volunteer:

readusainc.com/volunteer

### Apply to be a READ USA Tutor

READ USA recruits and trains high school– and college–aged tutors (ages 16–24) to deliver literacy instruction to elementary students who are struggling to read. Tutors earn \$15/hour for nine hours a week and have the opportunity to join AmeriCorps.



Learn more about becoming a READ USA tutor and apply on our website:

readusainc.com/apply





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