



END RACISM

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Starting an RER Program

The Reading to End Racism, Inc. (RER) program is a copyrighted model that includes training, materials and program methodology.

If you haven't already spoken to an RER representative, please call 303.449,9819 before you begin! Below are some helpful hints as you begin creating your own local RER affiliate program. Some communities may need to build an organization from the ground up, while others may have an organization in place that wants to adopt RER in order to augment the services they already offer.

1. Build the Team

You will need to identify *at least three* people in your community or organization who agree to serve as organizing council members and as your first Classroom Readers. These people will receive training to train additional readers.

Qualities to look for among prospective colleagues include:

- Reliability
- Ability to work across ethnic and socio-economic lines
- Ethnic diversity
- Experience with or interest in issues of race
- Connections with your local school district and other community action groups
- Fundraising ability

2. Test the Concept in Your Community

Next, start reading through the RER materials and literature. Look at both the benefits of an RER program and the effort it will take to implement one. Is your group ready to take on the range of tasks, or should you back up a step and do more recruiting? Discuss with your colleagues how the concept would fit within the schools in your area. Talk to staff members, PTA reps and parents to gauge their interest in the program.

3. Funding the Program

Books, training and promotional materials all have a cost. As the program grows throughout your school district, you may need to hire staff or seek in-kind support from an organization that aligns with the RER mission. If you need financial support, you will need to research private foundations or individual donors interested in encouraging healthy, respectful relationships among different racial communities in their area.

4. Formalize a Relationship with RER

Once you have a core group that is excited to bring RER to your community, contact the national office. We will send you *Becoming an RER Affiliate*, an outline of our expectations as an RER affiliate program and the fees involved with training and materials. We will also arrange a training for your group. During the one- to two-day training you will learn to organize, coordinate an event, train Readers, and prepare schools. By the time you take this step, you should be convinced that schools in your area are good prospects for RER, and that you will get the level of volunteerism you need to deliver the program. To begin, look for schools with diverse student bodies and/or teachers or administrators who show interest in addressing issues of race.

As you progress, the national RER office will provide detailed advice in presenting this complicated issue, as well as support including book lists, evaluation forms, reader guidelines and innovations RER affiliates around the country have found to be effective.

Good luck getting started! And please feel free to contact us if you have questions.