

## VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

### A.1 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Information Item

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There are multiple funding streams in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus package that could benefit Idaho libraries.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, block grants allocated among the states for education and other high-priority needs. Idaho's allocation is \$201,700,000.

The Commission submitted two proposals to the Governor, but neither was recommended by his Stimulus Executive Committee:

- A list of library construction projects
- "Job-seeking @ Your Library," a 2-year statewide program to increase local library capacity to meet job-seekers' needs

The Governor has recommended spending \$3,000,000 of the K-12 portion of this fund for the Idaho Education Network which includes high-bandwidth connectivity, 2-way interactive video and internet access. By statute, implementation will be done in 3 phases: public high schools, elementary and middle schools, and libraries. Contracts with two vendors are in place to begin implementation as funding is available. It is possible that some public libraries will receive expanded broadband connectivity if the Legislature provides spending authority for this ARRA funding.

While "Job-seeking @ Your Library" wasn't funded by the Governor, I followed up with the Idaho Department of Labor director for Workforce Development to inquire about proceeding with part of that proposal, supplying all Idaho public libraries with access to Idaho's eCIS (Career Information System). The following is now part of Labor's plan to use ARRA funding:

- *Expand access to automated services through libraries* – Provide the Career Information System (CIS) and *IdahoWorks* automated workforce services in 140 libraries statewide, expanding access and promoting workforce services throughout the state and with those who lack Internet services at home. Designated department staff will work to coordinate and train library personnel as well as train department staff on how to use CIS and *IdahoWorks* more effectively with their customers.

Other ARRA funding streams that we are monitoring include:

- USDA Rural Community Facilities Program (public library construction)
- Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- USDA/Commerce/NTIA/FCC broadband initiative
- Commerce Community Development Block grants (public library construction)