

FY2018 Budget Enhancement Requests

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

includes two enhancements:

The enhancements concern the Talking Book Service (TBS) and the Maker / Emerging Technologies program, although the funding would impact a number of other ICfL programs and services, as well.

Talking Book Service

The TBS brings the wide world of reading to those Idahoans who are blind or physically incapable of holding a book.

Talking Book Services in each state are designed to be a partnership between the Library of Congress' National Library Service (NLS) and the designated state agency.

This was the case in Idaho until FY2010, when the ICfL was faced with significant budget cuts. The ICfL chose to continue the TBS program by moving it from state to federal funds -- where it has remained -- through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

This enhancement request, which would be phased in over a two-year period, would return the Talking Book Service to state funding, where it was prior to FY2010.

In addition, a 2015 NLS site visit report urged the ICfL to "work to obtain funding ... that is not LSTA based." Further, the ICfL's LSTA allotment has not increased to cover higher personnel costs or inflation. In fact, Idaho's LSTA allotment for 2016 is 5.18 percent less than that in 2010.

Returning Idaho's Talking Book Service to state funds would restore the state-federal partnership and allow for the state's federal funding to serve Idahoans in even greater ways.

Restoring funding of \$187,200 would enable:

- the ICfL to redirect the LSTA funds from the Talking Book Service to other initiatives that build the capacity of Idaho libraries to better serve their communities, such as Read to Me, Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI), and those programs that aid tweens and teens and mid-life adults.
- increased support of the state's goals of reading proficiency, college and career readiness, and strengthening the talent pipeline.

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Maker / Emerging Technologies

From inventors, designers, engineers, and craftsmen, to tinkerers, artists, programmers, and DIY'ers, a myriad of people working in a variety of disciplines come together to form the Maker Movement, which shifts the focus of learning from theory to practice.

And, as libraries have always helped people explore ideas -- whether through books, computing and Internet access, and now, also as places for hands-on learning, problem-solving, and innovation -- the ICfL's **Make It at the Library** initiative has the potential to reach thousands of Idahoans, statewide, through public, school, and academic libraries. And the people who directly participate will influence and educate others, exponentially.

New funding of \$119,700 would enable:

Personnel

- responsible for strengthening the ICfL's capacity to support maker, STEAM (STEM+Art), and emerging technology-based programming in a more focused way, statewide.
- advance current initiatives and create a tiered maker program that would give libraries more options to better meet their distinct community needs.

Operations

- the expansion of the maker program to small / rural public, academic, and school libraries, statewide.
- the adoption of a more cost-effective, regional training model.
- additional emerging technology tools, which would be utilized by a variety of audiences to explore, learn, collaborate, and create whatever they can imagine.

