FY2019 ENHANCEMENTS

Fast Facts

#1, TALKING BOOKS SERVICES (TBS) - Move the Talking Book Service from the federal fund (LSTA) to state funds - $357,500

- TBS provides audio books and playback equipment to over 3,400 Idahoans who are unable to read standard print.
- TBS staff circulate over 184,000 audio books annually, making Idaho’s per capita circulation 13% higher than the national average.
- TBS is designed to be a partnership between states and the Library of Congress / National Library Service.

- TBS was on state funds prior to FY2010 state budget cuts; the Commission moved it to LSTA funds in order to continue providing the service.
- The 2015 and 2017 NLS site visits reports for the Idaho Talking Book Services urged the Commission to “work to obtain funding for the regional library that is not LSTA based.”
- The future of LSTA funds is uncertain, at best.
- If approved, the LSTA funds (if they still exist) will be redirected to increase support for Idaho’s goal of increasing college and career readiness through:
  - Statewide e-book subscription for all elementary school libraries,
  - Support for model school library programs,
  - Increased hands-on out-of-school learning opportunities that prepare Idaho’s future workforce with 21st century skills.

#2, BROADBAND REIMBURSEMENT FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES – Increase funding for Idaho public libraries through the Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act to meet expected need in FY2019 - $45,000

- Based on FY2018 E-rate filings, Idaho public libraries will be eligible to request state reimbursement of more than 90% of the current $180,000 appropriation.
- More public libraries are expected to procure more broadband in FY2019.
- The 25% increase ($45,000) was derived in consultation with the State Department of Education’s Broadband Program staff.