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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Registration Assistance Awards available for Library Support Staff Certification**

BOISE, ID – The Idaho Commission for Libraries is again offering financial assistance to library support staff applying for the American Library Association’s (ALA) Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program. The LSSC Program offers library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for their experience; enhance library service; and increase skills and knowledge in areas such as technology, communication, and the foundations of librarianship.

The Commission will offer up to 10 Registration Assistance Awards this fall. The Awards are for \$175, one-half of the LSSC registration/application fee. Successful award recipients will be asked to pay the remainder of the registration fee with their own funds or funds obtained from other sources.

Library Support Staff Certification provides a path to recognition and awareness of the critical role that library support staff plays in the delivery of quality library service. To attain certification, support staff must achieve six of ten competency sets either through development of an online portfolio or taking approved courses. The competency sets are: Foundation of Library Service; Technology; Communication and Teamwork; Access Services; Adult Readers’ Advisory Services; Cataloging and Classification; Collection Management; Reference and Information Services; Supervision and Management; and Youth Services.

An application form for the Registration Assistance Awards is available from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>. The application deadline is November 15, 2011. Support staff members from all types of libraries are invited to apply. To be eligible to participate in LSSC and thus receive an Assistance Award, applicants must have a high school degree or its equivalent and have worked for a minimum of one year (or 1,820 hours) as a library staff member or volunteer within the last five years. Please contact Shirley Biladeau at [shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov) with questions.

The recipients of the Award will be announced on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

“LSSC is really pleased that the Idaho Commission for Libraries is participating in the Registration Awards,” said Nancy Bolt, Co-Project Director of LSSC. “We are confident that support staff will find

certification to be helpful and are thankful for this grant from IMLS.” State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “The Commission is pleased to offer this opportunity for professional development to Idaho library support staff. This certification will benefit both library support staff and the customers they serve.”

The LSSC Program is funded by a grant to ALA from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association. Detailed additional information on LSSC is available on the LSSC website: [www.ala-apa.org/lssc](http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc).

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.