
The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

NEWS RELEASE

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Information Contacts:

Sue Walker, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov

Shirley Bildeau, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or shirley.bildeau@libraries.idaho.gov

Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov

Idaho Commission for Libraries has been awarded a \$71,000 grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association as part of the nationwide Smart investing @ your library® Program

Idaho Commission for Libraries launches new financial education programs with grant

BOISE, ID –Idaho Commission for Libraries is pleased to announce that better financial and investor information and educational programs are coming to south central Idaho with the launch of Smart investing @ your library®.

The Commission is one of 17 recipients nationwide chosen through a competitive process to win a grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association (ALA) as part of Smart investing @ your library®. This prestigious grant will help to build the capacity of the Commission and libraries in south central Idaho to provide effective, unbiased financial and investor education to the community.

With the funding, the Commission will leverage partnerships in a three-phase project that includes train-the-trainer workshops, library/community sponsored events, and promotions to the public.

“It’s an honor to be tapped for this generous grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. The funding will make an array of free, unbiased financial information programs possible in our community,” said Ann Joslin, Idaho’s State Librarian. “Smart investing @ your library® gives us the chance to innovate. We’re excited by the prospect of collaborating in new ways with trusted community partners to deliver information that helps people build a brighter financial future.”

Idaho Commission for Libraries will be working with the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), the University of Idaho Extension (UI Extension), twelve public libraries, the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition, the Idaho Department of Finance, and other organizations to bring much needed financial education to a region in which over 50% of the residents have incomes below 200% of the poverty level.

“The libraries participating in this grant program make reliable financial information and education readily accessible in their communities,” said Gerri Walsh, President of the FINRA Foundation. “Libraries



are paying close attention to their communities’ needs and aspirations, and can respond in creative, sustainable ways to help residents achieve financial goals for themselves and their families.”

Smart investing @ your library® is a partnership between the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. The program supports public libraries across the country in their efforts to meet financial education needs at the local level.

The Reference and User Services Association is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services and collection materials they need.

Established in 1876, the American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world. It strives to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. For more information, visit www.ala.org.

FINRA, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms doing business in the United States. FINRA is dedicated to investor protection and market integrity through effective and efficient regulation and complementary compliance and technology-based services. FINRA touches virtually every aspect of the securities business—from registering and educating all industry participants to examining securities firms, writing rules, enforcing those rules and the federal securities laws, informing and educating the investing public, providing trade reporting and other industry utilities, and administering the largest dispute resolution forum for investors and firms. For more information, visit www.finra.org.

The FINRA Investor Education Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give underserved Americans the knowledge, skills and tools necessary for financial success throughout life. For details about grant programs and other FINRA Foundation initiatives, visit www.finrafoundation.org.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.