



IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

325 West State Street Boise, Idaho 83702 | ph. 208.334.2150 | 800.458.3271 | Fax: 208.334.4016

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 28 May 2010

Information Contact: Ann Joslin, Idaho Commission for Libraries, ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov or 208-334-2150 or
Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov or 208-334-2150

Commission for Libraries BTOP proposal advances to “due-diligence” phase

BOISE, ID – Federal stimulus money that supports an Idaho Commission for Libraries project to increase connectivity rates in 55 of Idaho's least connected public libraries is one step closer. The Public Computing Center proposal has advanced to the “due-diligence” process in the Round 2 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) evaluation process. The submitted project budget total is \$2,850,347 with a Federal grant request of \$1,907,531 and a total match amount of \$942, 816. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) intends to start announcing Round 2 BTOP awards in June.

The Commission submitted their proposal to NTIA on March 15. The objectives of this BTOP project include increasing connectivity rates in 55 of Idaho’s least connected public libraries, upgrading public computing resources in those libraries with new desk-top and laptop computers, and leveraging partnerships to offer services in workforce development, education, and e-government to library patrons statewide.

The Commission plans to partner with community colleges, state government agencies, and non-profit entities to serve 376,512 underserved or vulnerable Idahoans—including low-income, disabled, rural, and unemployed populations. “Computer centers in libraries help equalize the playing fields for adults who are seeking jobs [or] learning new skills that help them compete in the marketplace—as well as for young people who study and complete homework in libraries,” says Alyce Kelley, Emmett Public Library Director. “In stressed and challenged communities the public library serves as a resource where people of all ages take part in their community and access information that can improve their life circumstances.”

You can find out more about our BTOP proposal, including a graphic overview of “What it looks like in practice” at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/broadband-grant-program>.

--end--

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/>.