

VII. General, Miscellaneous Revenue, and Library Services Improvement Funds
B.1 Program - Broadband Toolkit Proposal – Action Item

Internet2 was awarded an IMLS grant in 2016 to develop a broadband toolkit targeted to small, rural, and tribal libraries with limited information technology support available. The goal of the project was to create a resource to improve and evolve library staff understanding and interaction with the library's broadband connection and services. I was invited to join the project's Library Advisory Group, which was to help define the parameters and features of the toolkit, and to critique subsequent drafts. In 2017, the project sought volunteers to pilot the beta version of the toolkit. Dylan Baker, our Broadband Consultant, identified 7 Idaho libraries who agreed to work through the toolkit with him and offer feedback.

In June of this year, Internet2 convened a wrap-up meeting of the state library agencies who hosted pilots and several of the Library Advisory Group members. Dylan's presence was specifically requested, and I was able to invite Stephanie Bailey-White as well as Adam Day, IT Manager for the Twin Falls Public Library, to contribute to discussions of how the toolkit might be widely implemented. Participants in the wrap-up meeting were very enthusiastic about the final product as a useful tool for small, rural, and tribal libraries.

Our proposal is to begin rollout of the toolkit in Idaho this fall by offering a \$500 incentive to each of up to 25 public libraries that work through the toolkit and submit the resulting documentation and improvement plan to us. The \$500 incentive would be used to implement some element of the recipient's improvement plan. I request Board approval for using up to \$12,500 from the Library Services Improvement Fund to support the first phase this effort. Subsequent steps will be determined after evaluating the results of the first group of participant libraries.

While the toolkit is interactive, a PDF version can be found at <https://internet2.app.box.com/v/toolkit-final-draft>.

Suggested motion: I move expenditures of up to \$12,500 be approved from the Library Services Improvement Fund for \$500 incentives to public libraries that implement the Broadband Toolkit assessment and improvement process.

M/S _____/_____ C/F _____