

## VI. GENERAL, MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE, & LIBRARY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

### A. Finances – Pending Grants – Action Item

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The Commission is working to secure funding through three grant sources. If all are awarded, staff are requesting the authority to spend those funds from the Library Services Improvement Fund. A brief summary of each project follows:

1) **Lumina Foundation, Phase II partnership with State Board of Education (SBOE) to improve access to opportunities for adult learners, especially veterans. Up to \$110,000.**

ICfL is currently partnering with the SBOE to increase resources for adult learners. If this funding is approved and the SBOE is able to get an extension of their existing grant from the Lumina Foundation, ICfL staff will organize a training (or two regional trainings) for library staff in ten targeted counties and pay for their travel and staff substitutes if needed. Library staff will leave the training with a solid knowledge of the goals of the program, what Next Steps Idaho is, collateral material they can use to promote the program, and a grant award to help promote and implement the program in their local communities. Part of the training day will also focus on networking with Veteran groups and service providers and how best to reach out to Veterans in their communities.

Participating libraries will be asked to track the number of veterans and adults they reach with Next Steps Idaho information, report on local partnerships, and host at least two events to promote the program, one in their library and one outreach event, partnering with a local community group or organization. Follow-up webinars and additional training may also be required.

2) **Idaho Community Foundation, Census Support. Up to \$75,000.**

Funds will be spent on purchasing and providing tablets, printing documentation (help sheets, Census Fact Sheets, signage for the kiosk, etc.), and shipping for census kiosks for libraries in “hard-to-count” communities. The kiosks will be a dedicated location with the tablet in the library for filling out the census survey. The libraries invited to set up a kiosk will be those near hard to count census tracts in a rural county not already funded by grants the Idaho Community Foundation recently disbursed.

3) **Scentsy Family Foundation, Laundromat Literacy. Up to \$10,000.**

ICfL is seeking \$10,000 in grant funds from the Scentsy Family Foundation to fund a pilot program called Laundromat Literacy with Idaho libraries. This program will establish literacy-rich spaces in partnering neighborhood laundromats, bringing needed literacy skills to targeted families and children who may not be regular library users.

4) **Best Practices Improvement Plan Pilot. Up to \$2,500.**

ICfL staff are requesting authority to spend up to \$2,500 from the Library Services Improvement Fund to support the Best Practices for Idaho Public Libraries Program and a companion piece, the Best Practices Improvement Plan. The Best Practices program provides a checklist of best practice statements and a supporting toolkit for eight identified content areas. Library staff will be encouraged to use the checklists and toolkits for planning, staff and board development, orientation, and advocacy. The Best Practices were compiled by an ICfL staff committee with the assistance of an advisory group of practicing Idaho librarians. The Improvement Plan is modeled after the ICfL's successful Broadband Toolkit Improvement Plan which guides librarians through a toolkit to identify areas in need of improvement and subsequently submit a plan describing how they will address those needs. Successful applicants receive a \$500 grant to assist them with implementing improvements. The Best Practices Improvement Plan will similarly provide financial support in the form of \$500 grants to help participating libraries enact best-practice-related improvements. This request will allow librarians in the advisory group the chance to participate in the program during the current fiscal year. The amount of \$2,500 will allow five libraries to participate at \$500 each.

We are hopeful the grants will be awarded soon and funds will be deposited in the Library Services Improvement Fund in the next month or two.

As outlined in Idaho Code, Board approval is required for all expenditures from the LSIF:

33-2506 (2) Purpose. The purpose of the library services improvement fund is to further the development of library services for all the people of Idaho. Moneys in the library services improvement fund are appropriated to and may be expended by the board of library commissioners at any time for the purposes provided in this section.

(4)(c) Payments from the library services improvement fund may be used only for the purposes approved by the board of library commissioners. Funding decisions shall be solely within the discretion of the board of library commissioners.

**Suggested motion:** I move that the expenditure of up to \$197,500 from the Library Services Improvement Fund be approved for implementation of the grant projects as outlined in Board Document 20-36.

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