

V. Federal Fund
C. Grants – Information Item

The ICfL was awarded \$161,477 as Idaho's portion of the funds appropriated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This funding is to be used to address digital inclusion and related technical support in the context of workforce development and/or broadband availability.

The ICfL staff decided to immediately offer the first portion of this funding (approximately \$100,000) as competitive mini-grants (\$250-\$1,000 per location) to address digital inclusion needs for public libraries (including branches and bookmobiles) and special libraries (including tribal, military, corrections, and archives). Libraries are encouraged to be creative in identifying their needs for these funds, but some eligible needs include:

- PPE (personal protective equipment) and cleaning supplies for staff and the public to safely utilize library spaces, services, and technology
- Internet accessible devices (such as laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets) for checkout or use in the library
- WiFi access points, repeaters, and/or antennas to expand the library's public WiFi beyond the walls of the building
- Mobile hotspots for checkout and/or to be deployed throughout the library's community to extend broadband availability
- Video conferencing equipment and/or licenses to facilitate virtual library meetings and programming

ICfL staff will be ranking applications and announcing grant awards to the library community by June 15, with a plan to get the funds to the libraries as quickly as possible to facilitate reopening.

With any remaining funds, ICfL plans to look at possible statewide service purchases or offering larger competitive grants to the library community. Definite plans will be made after the mini-grant award total amount is known.