

VI. GENERAL, MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE, & LIBRARY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT FUNDS
C. Grants – Libraries and Telehealth – Action Item

The ICfL staff have received inquiries and/or funds from two sources since the last meeting and are requesting Board support to spend the awards from the Library Services Improvement Fund (LSIF).

The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health is awarding \$30,000 in grants to the ICfL to launch a telehealth pilot program at two libraries in Clearwater County. Both libraries will be able to offer telehealth visits, increasing access to healthcare in rural Idaho.

The ICfL and libraries in Orofino and Weippe will use grant funding to purchase necessary technology and equipment required for telehealth appointments take place at these public facilities. Telehealth allows healthcare providers and patients to meet virtually for many essential medical services.

Telehealth services have become a viable alternative to in-person healthcare, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when many doctors' offices were closed for in-person consultations and services. Many healthcare providers continue to offer telehealth services for the convenience of patients. Telehealth also makes it easier for Idahoans who live in remote areas to access specialists who are based in urban areas.

Idaho library staff are seeing increased demand for telehealth options and are ready to be part of the solution to increase the health and well-being of Idahoans. They are a natural partner in exploring options for rural residents, and this pilot program will help pave the way for others who want to do more in this area. The telehealth services are expected to begin in the coming months.

Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF). As presented at the last Board meeting, BUUF is committed to supporting the goals of the Idaho Libraries Welcome All project. The group was hoping to raise \$10,000 at fundraisers but exceeded their goal by \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000 they plan on donating to the ICfL in April or May.

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 \$35,000 from the Library Services Improvement Fund be approved for implementation of projects outlined in Board Document 21-xx.

M/S _____/_____