

V. FEDERAL FUND

D. Library Facilities Funds – Information item

If approved through the 2023 legislative process, \$3.5 million dollars will be available through the U.S. Treasury Department’s Capital Projects Fund for Idaho public libraries starting in July 2023. Funds must be used for the construction or improvement of buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring in communities with critical need for the project. This funding request was almost approved during the 2022 legislative session but was removed from the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ budget during the last day of the session.

Program Summary

The total award for the ICfL’s Library Facility Project, if approved by the 2023 Legislature, is \$3,518,323. Approximately \$3,350,000 – **95%** of funds directed to the ICfL – will be awarded to qualifying public libraries in the form of subgrants. Libraries will use those funds to make capital improvements to their physical facilities, primarily in the form of one-time construction costs. Priority improvements will include changes that enhance, expand, or create permanent library spaces to accommodate programs and services related to work, education, and health monitoring.

The subgrant process will be competitive and require a comprehensive application. Funding will be awarded in tiers to accommodate libraries of all sizes, budgets, and capacity:

- \$300,000 for the \$5,000 to \$25,000 tier (12 projects at the maximum amount)
- \$1,050,000 for the \$25,000 to \$150,000 tier (7 projects at the maximum amount)
- \$2,000,000 for the \$150,000 to \$500,000 tier (4 projects at the maximum amount)

This tiered approach will fund a minimum of 23 projects – and potentially more if many applications come in under the maximum amount for each tier. The ICfL intends to open applications and award subgrants in the summer of 2023. Grantees will have until the fall of 2026 to complete their projects.

The remaining 5% of funds will be used for administrative and operating costs. ICfL will provide peer support, training, and professional development for participating grantees, including best practices for supporting the needs of their communities.

Program Eligibility

Libraries currently offer many programs, resources, and services that directly support workforce development, education, and health monitoring. However, the capacity of libraries to fully meet the needs of their communities is often constrained by their physical space and digital infrastructure. By funding the capital improvement needs of Idaho’s libraries, this program will expand the ability of libraries to offer these services.

The ICfL will use the grant application process to determine which libraries are serving communities with the most critical needs and will award funds based on a scoring system and grant review committee.