

V. Federal Fund

C.3. Grants – Report on Library Facilities Project – Information item

Background: The Idaho Commission for Libraries has been allocated \$3.5 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the purpose of constructing or improving library buildings. The ICfL was granted spending authority for these funds by the Idaho Legislature during the 2023 legislative session. The ICfL will utilize 95% of these funds (\$3.3 million) as direct subgrants to Idaho public libraries to support capital improvement needs. At the time of this report (April 12, 2023), the ICfL is waiting for final approval of its program plan from the U.S. Department of the Treasury before proceeding to the application and selection phase of the project.

Updates from the Letter of Intent Phase: In January and February 2023, while waiting for legislative and Treasury approval, the ICfL asked libraries who wished to apply for the Facilities and Capital Improvement Grant to submit a letter of intent. These letters collected basic information from libraries about their projects and funding needs. The ICfL received letters of intent from 47 public libraries across Idaho. As indicated in these submissions, public libraries anticipated requesting over \$16 million in grant funds, which well exceeds the \$3.3 million the ICfL has available for subgrants. Below are additional details the ICfL received from the letter of intent process:

- **Regional breakout** – The ICfL received letters of intent from libraries across all geographic areas of Idaho including:
 - 8 libraries in Central Idaho
 - 8 libraries in Eastern Idaho
 - 8 libraries in North-Central and North Idaho
 - 8 libraries in Southern and Southeast Idaho
 - 15 libraries in Southwest Idaho
- **Rural/metro breakout** – The ICfL received letters of intent from 10 libraries located in urban centers or metropolitan corridors and 37 libraries located in predominantly rural locations and communities.
- **Funding level breakout** – The ICfL received letters of intent indicating anticipated funding requests for the following funding tiers:
 - Tier 1 (\$5,000 to \$25,000) – 2 libraries
 - Tier 2 (\$25,000 to \$150,000) – 10 libraries
 - Tier 3 (\$150,000 to \$500,000) – 35 libraries. Of these, 25 libraries indicated that they planned to ask for the maximum funding amount of \$500,000.

(Note: These are anticipated numbers, but they may not reflect the final requests. Libraries may change their official funding requests in the full application.)

Next Steps: As of publication of this report (April 12, 2023), the ICfL is awaiting final approval of its program plan from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. This is the final step required before the ICfL can release the full subgrant application to the library community. Once the full

application is released, the ICfL anticipates giving libraries seven weeks to complete their applications. The agency plans to host an informational webinar for applicants during this period. Once the application period closes, the ICfL anticipates about a one-month turn-around for application review and final selection. The ICfL's goal is to have projects selected and initial funds disbursed by August 2023. Additional details and updates are available on the grant webpage: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/facilities-capital-improvements>.