

V. Federal Fund**C.1. Grants – Library Facilities Improvement Grant Awards – Information item**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury allocated \$3.5 million in federal funds to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) for the purpose of constructing or improving library buildings. The Idaho Legislature granted the ICfL spending authority for these funds during the 2023 legislative session. The ICfL is set to utilize 95% of the funding – \$3.3 million – as direct subgrants awarded to Idaho public libraries to support capital improvement needs.

The ICfL received 39 applications for the Facilities Improvement Grant, with requests totaling \$13,383,834. A grant committee of ICfL staff members and an Idaho library director reviewed applications and convened to make award decisions in June and July 2023. The ICfL awarded grants to 15 libraries, totaling \$3,258,800. Projects have a wide range in scope, budget, size, and geographical distribution.

The grant period runs from August 2023 to August 2026 or 90 days after the library completes its grant spending, whichever comes first. The first round of funds will be disbursed to grantees in late September or early October 2023.

Below is a summary of grant projects.

Grant Recipient and Project	Award Amount
Bear Lake County Library District (Montpelier) Funding will be used to create safe parking spaces on the library lot to improve accessibility and safety of parking for winter/year-round access and to resolve roof drainage issues.	\$4,800
Benewah County Free Library District – Tri-Community Library (Fernwood) Funding will be used to build a new library to replace an existing structure that is no longer functional nor meets the needs of the community.	\$500,000
Burley Public Library Funding will be used for a 1,900-square-foot expansion of the library space and the remodeling of 600 square feet of existing space. The work will bring the library up to current building codes, create a new flexible-use community meeting space, and create two private study/telehealth rooms.	\$500,000
Cascade Public Library Funding will be used to add 1,000 square feet of interior space and 1,500 square feet of usable exterior space. The library will add a dedicated media/telehealth room, kitchen space, and two ADA-accessible restrooms. There will also be a separate children’s area.	\$500,000
Clearwater County Free Library District (Weippe) Funding will be used to improve accessibility and safety of parking for winter/year-round access; to install a generator to address frequent winter power outages; to upgrade the IT network infrastructure to expand Wi-Fi access; and to create outdoor seating with charging stations for 24-hour access to Wi-Fi.	\$107,000
Eagle Public Library	\$15,000

Funding will be used to enhance ADA compliance of restrooms and for the purchase of additional library seating to allow for full usage of existing spaces.	
Elk River Free Library District Funding will be used to address various access and safety issues, including creating ADA-accessible walkways, installing outdoor roofing/covering to allow for outdoor programming, and addressing flooding and drainage issues in the parking lot that make it difficult and hazardous to access the library during the winter/inclement weather.	\$43,000
Emmett Public Library Funding will be used to improve building access by installing ADA-compliant doors, adding a pergola cover to expand usable outdoor space and improve the usability of the 24-hour holds locker, and installing an awning over the meeting room entrance to improve safety and accessibility.	\$53,000
Garden City Public Library Funding will be used to remodel an existing space to create two ADA-compliant private study/telehealth meeting spaces.	\$92,000
Hailey Public Library Funding will be used to enclose the current computer lab to better facilitate use of the space and to purchase additional seating for part of the library that is underutilized.	\$50,000
Homedale Library District Funding will be used to upgrade an underutilized building to create a community center/program area, upgrade an electrical system, and to purchase additional shelving and a storage shed.	\$19,000
Prairie River Library District – Lapwai Branch Funding will be used to repair and rebuild a portion of the library building that has been deemed unsafe and is currently unusable. This will allow the library to reoccupy the full footprint of the building and provide for future expansion of the library.	\$200,000
South Bannock Library District – Inkom Branch Funding will be used to construct a new library branch in a community that currently only has limited bookmobile access.	\$500,000
St. Maries Public Library Funding will be used to enclose a 1,300-square-foot open-air daylight basement that will be used as meeting space. It will include ADA-compliant restrooms and a kitchen.	\$500,000
Wilder Public Library District Funding will be used to remodel the library’s existing meeting space, which will include systems and electrical upgrades; remodel a restroom for ADA accessibility; replace the furnace; enclose the entryway for better accessibility; and create usable outdoor space for meetings and programming.	\$175,000
Total	\$3,258,800