

**V. General (state funds), Miscellaneous Revenue, and Library Services Improvement Fund (LSIF)**  
**A. Finances – FY2026 Budget Requests – Action item**

---

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) will prepare its fiscal year 2026 budget request in accordance with the Idaho Division of Financial Management’s (DFM) budget development manual. The ICfL will submit its request for initial feedback by July 26, 2024. ICfL staff recommend including the following requests in the budget proposal:

**Line-item request: Ongoing \$42,400 in general funds for Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act reimbursements to Idaho public libraries**

This enhancement would increase the ICfL’s appropriation for EOR, the state reimbursement program for public library and school district broadband costs, from its current level of \$232,600 to \$275,000. This increase would ensure sufficient reimbursement funds are available to public libraries for the portion of broadband costs that are not covered by the federal E-rate program. If any funds remain after EOR reimbursements are fulfilled, those may be used to help reimburse public libraries’ internet content filtering and mobile hotspot costs.

The ICfL is responsible for distributing EOR reimbursements under Idaho Code 33-5602 to 33-5605. EOR reimbursements cover the internet service costs that remain after E-rate discounts, which are administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission. When combined, federal E-rate discounts and state EOR reimbursements can fully cover a public library’s internet service costs. EOR reimbursements are available to eligible libraries every six months.

The Education Opportunity Resource Committee determines the reimbursement methodology for the EOR program. Based on current E-rate funding requests, the ICfL estimates the current EOR funding level of \$232,600 will be exhausted and the agency will not be able to fully reimburse broadband costs for all eligible libraries in FY2026 and beyond.

**Spending authority request: Digital Access for All Idahoans Capacity Grant Funds**

The ICfL is requesting spending authority of up to \$6 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to implement the Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan. This will be the second year of funding provided by NTIA to implement the collaborative plan to address the human barriers that may prevent Idahoans from accessing digital resources. More than 90% of the funding will be made available to Idaho communities via subgrants and turnkey programs in FY26.

**Suggested motion:** I move that the fiscal year 2026 agency budget request be approved with the proposals as described in Board Document 24-61, and that the State Librarian be authorized to adjust the request as may be required by the Idaho Division of Financial Management or the Legislative Services Office.