

III. Federal Fund**B. Program – LSTA23 Highlights – Information item**

The Idaho Commission for Libraries submits an annual Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Program Report (SPR) each January to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The report includes project and activity reports for all funds spent under the most recently concluded award. The SPR also covers projects and activities funded with state and other matching funds, which are a condition of the award. The full LSTA23 report is attached for spending that occurred between September/October 2023 and August/September 2024. Several projects are highlighted below.

LSTA23 Award: \$1,740,506

State Funds (Maintenance of Effort): \$771,486.72

Total Match (Including State Funds and Other Funds): \$897,038.02

Select Project Abstracts**Talking Book Service**

An estimated 51,000 Idaho residents cannot read standard print due to disabilities such as vision loss or difficulty handling books. The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) helps by delivering audio and braille materials directly to homes through free mailings or downloadable “Duplication on Demand.” With a collection of nearly 150,000 titles, Idaho TBS serves over 3,300 eligible users statewide, either individually or via institutional accounts such as public schools. Idaho TBS provides regular updates, reader support, and outreach. It funds subscriptions for printed braille materials through the Utah State Library. Most braille users can also download books via e-readers from the National Library Service (NLS). A seven-member advisory committee, including agency representatives and patrons, meets quarterly to improve Idaho TBS services and expand access statewide.

Activities Detailed: Circulation; Public Information and Outreach; Recording Program; That All May Read Grant

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$472,647.12

Youth Services Outreach and Family Engagement

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) initiated the outreach and family engagement project to encourage public, school, and tribal libraries in Idaho to better serve community

members. This was achieved by updating in-house programming, services, and spaces, as well as expanding outreach efforts to children, families, and caregivers. Key activities included staff professional development, community and caregiver involvement, and targeted grant projects. These efforts create an inclusive and supportive environment for families and children, both in the library and through outreach programs, materials, and partnerships. The ICfL's outreach and family engagement initiatives ensure that libraries are accessible to all community segments, fostering a welcoming space for children and families of all abilities and experiences.

Activities Detailed: Library Outreach to Children; Indigenous Idaho; Welcoming Libraries Grant; Early Literacy Support Materials; Idaho Family Reading Week; Jump Start Kindergarten.

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$220,932.47

LiLI Databases

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) facilitated statewide access to Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI), a comprehensive collection of high-quality, regularly updated databases. These databases cover a wide range of topics, including homework assistance, scholarly research, reader advisory services, college and career resources, and language learning tools. LiLI provided all Idaho residents with free access to valuable content, such as college entrance and career exam preparation. By expanding online library services, LiLI ensured information equity for Idahoans, particularly those without regular access to physical libraries. The ICfL collaborates with database vendors to offer training sessions and distribute educational materials. These materials and virtual training are offered to Idaho library staff, who use the knowledge and materials to educate library patrons and other library staff.

Activities Detailed: Learning Express & Novelist; Training & Education

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$179,985.16

Digital Content Support

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has utilized Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to support libraries' electronic book collections and reduce platform fees for public libraries using OverDrive services. During the reporting period, the ICfL provided financial assistance to small public libraries, enabling them to continue electronic book and audiobook offerings for their patrons. The ICfL also provided materials to school

libraries to expand their electronic book and audiobook options for their students. A portion of LSTA funds was allocated to enhance the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA) collection and expand access to the 280,000 Idahoans living outside public library service areas. The E-Resources Consultant spent her time supporting digital content in Idaho libraries by administering a grant for small public libraries, connecting with school administrators, and reviewing and purchasing content for the IDEA collection.

Activities Detailed: Digital Content Purchasing; Platform Reimbursement

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$283,564.98

Broadband Reimbursements

The State of Idaho's Education Opportunity Resource Act (EOR) is coordinated by the Library Technology Consultant at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). EOR provides funding for broadband internet access to Idaho libraries that participate in the Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly referred to as "E-rate." The E-rate program partially funds libraries' internet costs and EOR will reimburse libraries for the portion of their monthly costs that is not covered. Any excess EOR funds are used to reimburse libraries for circulating mobile hotspot costs. The ICfL's Library Technology Consultant supports 72 Idaho public libraries participating in both E-rate and EOR. The Library Technology Consultant offers assistance through email, phone, video call, and in-person consultations. The Library Technology Consultant helps public libraries navigate application deadlines, forms, and rules involved with participating in both funding opportunities.

Activities Detailed: Mobile Hotspot and Content Filtering Reimbursements; Broadband Reimbursements (EOR)

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$59,934.42

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education project is an important way the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of Idaho libraries. Through this project, the ICfL offers and oversees timely access to relevant and accessible professional development resources. Due to Idaho's geographically dispersed nature, virtual education is the most effective way for the ICfL to reach as broad an audience as possible. The ICfL facilitates these opportunities through self-paced online courses, live webinars, and interactive virtual training sessions customized to meet the needs of the target audience. Continuing

Education Grants are offered to library staff to attend conferences, attend leadership development activities, coordinate group training activities, and take library science courses.

Activities Detailed: Continuing Education Grants; Public Library Directors Summit 2024; Continuing Education Consultant Position; Online Continuing Education

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$154,297.23

Youth Services Early Learning

Public libraries offer high-quality educational resources to families. The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) supports libraries through Read to Me, a program that helps improve early learning services for children from birth to age six and their families. The ICfL uses Institute of Museum and Library Services funds to coordinate programs like My First Books, offer professional development to library staff, and build community partnerships. Additionally, the ICfL allocates state matching funds to expand the reach of the My First Books program, serving more children.

Activities Detailed: Read to Me Rendezvous; My First Books

LSTA23 Funds Expended: \$128,956.19