

III. Federal Fund**B. Program – LSTA24 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.

LSTA24 Award: \$1,741,500

State Funds (Maintenance of Effort): \$756,772.65

Total Match (Including State Funds and Other Funds): \$897,897.11

Project Abstracts**Talking Book Service**

Approximately 51,000 Idaho residents cannot read standard print due to vision loss, physical disabilities, or other conditions that limit their ability to use traditional books. The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) provides free audio and braille materials through mail delivery and digital access. This system enables patrons to receive books at home on customized cartridges and download titles through the National Library Service (NLS). There are more than 150,000 available titles. TBS serves in excess of 3,300 Idahoans. This includes individual users and institutional accounts such as public schools that support students with reading limitations. TBS also offers reader assistance, outreach, and scheduled program updates to ensure patrons and partners remain informed. A seven-member Advisory Committee, comprised of agency representatives, educators, and patrons, meets quarterly to guide improvements and strengthen statewide availability of these reading materials.

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

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$569,212.97

Youth Services Outreach and Family Engagement

The Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Outreach and Family Engagement Project equipped Idaho's public, school, and tribal libraries with resources, training, and outreach support to address community needs. Efforts focused on enhancing in-house programs, services, and spaces through grant work, as well as expanding outreach efforts through community events for underserved children and families. Key components included professional development for staff, outreach literacy materials for caregivers and children, and funding and assistance for targeted grant initiatives. During the reporting period, the ICfL Outreach and Community Engagement Consultant

organized and managed one grant and three outreach and engagement activities offered across the state. The consultant provided library staff support through in-person and virtual consultation, program application and report navigation, and professional development. Funds were primarily expended on literacy materials, training, and grant awards.

Activities Detailed: Idaho Family Reading Week; Indigenous Idaho Course; Jump Start Kindergarten; Library Outreach to Children; Welcoming Libraries

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$213,669.53

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education (CE) program at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) strives to build the capacity of Idaho libraries by providing and facilitating timely access to relevant CE opportunities. The ICfL serves all library staff across the state (including academic, school, public, tribal, and special libraries) who, due to their varied job experience and educational backgrounds, have a wide range of continuing education needs. Given Idaho's divided geography, delivering continuing education virtually is the ICfL's most effective option to reach the largest number of library staff. Virtual learning was implemented through self-paced online courses, live webinars, and virtual interactive trainings.

Activities Detailed: Continuing Education Consultant Position; Continuing Education Grants; Online Continuing Education

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$194,119.02

Digital Content Support

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) leveraged Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to expand electronic book collections in public and school libraries utilizing OverDrive services. During the reporting period, the ICfL provided materials to libraries to educate students and patrons about the available electronic book options, particularly those accessible through the statewide Reciprocal Lending Agreement (RLA). A portion of LSTA funds were used to add new e-book and e-audio materials to the Idaho Digital E-book Alliance (IDEA) collection, which serves more than 200,000 Idahoans residing outside a public library service area while also supplementing electronic book collections in public schools. The E-Resources Consultant dedicated time to engaging with librarians in schools and public libraries, as well as reviewing and purchasing content for the IDEA collection.

Activities Detailed: Digital Content, Education & Outreach; Electronic Book Purchasing

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$171,264.47

LiLI Databases

During the reporting period, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) utilized a portion of funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as well as state funds, to provide all Idaho residents with free access to Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI), a comprehensive collection of

online databases and educational tools. These resources addressed Idahoans' diverse needs, including homework help, research assistance, car repair, and more.

Activities Detailed: Chilton Library; Education & Training; Gale eBooks, World Book Online

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$160,588.59

Youth Services Early Learning

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) supports libraries' efforts to prepare children for kindergarten through Read to Me, a program that enhances early learning services and outcomes for children from birth to age 6 and their families. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, overseen by a state-funded Early Learning Consultant, support early learning library programs and services that foster libraries' capacity to serve their communities. This includes the My First Books program. Additionally, the ICfL allocates state funds to expand the number of children served through the My First Books program. In fiscal year 2024 LSTA funds were utilized to cover the costs of books and shipping materials, subsidize early childhood conference attendance for library staff and the consultant, contract with an early literacy expert, and build community partnerships that leveraged resources.

Activities Detailed: My First Books; Professional Development: Idaho Early Years Conference

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$107,861.40

Bilingual/Bicultural Outreach

The Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Bilingual/Bicultural Outreach Program strengthens libraries' capacity to provide services to multifaceted communities. Under the guidance of the Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator, the program supplies libraries with culturally relevant resources, functional signage, and language assistance. The coordinator also develops training for library personnel, facilitates culturally responsive programs, and cultivates partnerships with organizations serving Idaho's Latine community. This initiative enables libraries to offer effective service environments for all Idaho residents, including the state's approximately 230,000 Latine community members.

Activities Detailed: Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$100,462.35

Library Building Capacity

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) implements several programs to build the capacity of Idaho libraries to best serve their communities. The subscription to Baker and Taylor's Bibliostat supported the collection and management of library statistics. ICfL staff provided training and resources, in partnership with other organizations, to support libraries in educating patrons about the digital world through customer service and digital skills trainings. The Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT), a volunteer group of Idaho library staff led and organized by ICfL library consultants, met monthly online to discuss trends and plan activities, such as their bi-weekly

newsletter. A collaborative grant program expanded the partnership between Idaho's Commission on the Arts (Arts Idaho) and the ICfL to address adult loneliness by supporting creative arts programs in Idaho libraries. Through this partnership, the ICfL increased the capacity of libraries to provide adult services.

Activities Detailed: Creative Aging Grant; SPLAT Group; SPLAT LibLearnX Conference Attendance to Promote New Toolkit

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$51,796.66

Statewide Resources Sharing

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) manages ShareIdaho, a statewide cataloging, metadata, and interlibrary loan (ILL) contract with the nonprofit Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Participation in this statewide contract is available to all Idaho libraries (public, school, academic, and special). The program's purpose is to enhance library services and make resources more readily available for Idahoans. The ICfL pays a substantial baseline portion (40%) of the total contract cost to reduce expenditures for participating libraries and lower barriers for patrons. Furthermore, the ICfL covers any remaining gap between the amount paid by participating libraries, the ICfL's 40% contribution, and the total contract cost. This gap amount fluctuates based on the number of participating libraries and contract price increases. As part of this contract, the ICfL offers a free ILL referral center for smaller libraries with limited budgets and low ILL needs.

Activities Detailed: ShareIdaho

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$50,518.08

Youth Services School Library Development

The School Library Development program at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is the sole state-level library-specific support for Idaho's 700+ publicly funded school librarians. The program focuses on building capacity by offering high-quality professional development to enhance librarian skills. It provides access to a wide array of learning tools, including in-person consultation and specialized regional and national resources. Librarians also connect and collaborate through statewide networking events. The School Library Consultant offers personalized guidance and one-on-one consulting for unique challenges. The program also cultivates future leaders by offering school librarians opportunities to participate in advisory and working groups.

Activities Detailed: Bucks for Books; School Library Consultant/Training Services; Summer Summit 2024

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$38,216.16

Broadband Reimbursements

The Library Technology Consultant at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) administered the State of Idaho's Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act. EOR provided funding for broadband internet access to Idaho libraries that participated in the Universal Service Schools and Libraries

Program, commonly referred to as E-Rate. While the E-Rate program partially funded libraries' internet costs, EOR reimbursed libraries for the remainder of their monthly expenses. Any excess EOR funds were utilized to reimburse libraries for circulating mobile hotspot costs. The ICfL's Library Technology Consultant supported 73 Idaho public libraries participating in both E-Rate and EOR by offering assistance through email, phone, video call, and in-person consultations to help libraries navigate the ongoing application deadlines, forms, and rules involved with both funding opportunities.

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

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$20,990.97

Youth Services School Age and Teens

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) provided programs, resources, and access to professional development to support library staff in meeting the need for school-age and teen services in Idaho libraries. Additionally, ICfL staff convened quarterly meetings of its Statewide Teen Advisory Board (STAB) to gather feedback and direction from public and school librarians across Idaho. The ICfL also offered regular virtual Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends (LITT) chats on various teen services topics. These chats were designed to foster collaboration and sharing among colleagues at Idaho libraries. During the reporting period, the Youth Services Consultant dedicated approximately half of her staff time to executing activities supporting teen and school-age services, and providing consultation and support for libraries working with children and teens. She also cultivated relationships with partners to extend the reach of the ICfL by serving as the Idaho Out-of-School Network's Steering Committee Chair.

Activities Detailed: Idaho Out-of-School Network Resources and Support; Idaho Teen Reading Challenge; Teen Convening 2025

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$17,924.08

Youth Services Summer Learning

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) promotes summer learning in libraries by providing access to Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) materials, offering Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) microgrants, and delivering professional development grounded in research-based best practices. During this reporting period, the ICfL also received a donation from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Idaho to purchase reading material for libraries to distribute through their summer reading programs. The Youth Services Consultant dedicated approximately half of her work time to supporting summer learning efforts in Idaho libraries, which included ongoing email consultations, creating and leading six regional workshops on summer learning, managing the Summer STEM grant, and supplying resources for library-led summer learning initiatives.

Activities Detailed: Scottish Rite Books; Summer Learning Program Support; Summer Learning Workshops

LSTA24 Funds Expended: \$13,199.39