

American Rescue Plan Act – Libraries Keep Students Learning and Adults Earning Grant Project Summaries

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law on March 11. It designates \$200 million in pandemic response funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Of the \$200 million, \$178 million is allocated for state library administrative agencies. Idaho's allotment of the ARPA funding was approximately \$2.4 million. More than 90% of Idaho's allotment (\$1.8M) has gone directly to Idaho libraries through the "Keep Students Learning and Adults Earning" grants to libraries.

Through the Learn/Earn grant, the ICfL was able to fund 48 libraries and a variety of projects across Idaho. Grantees included public, school, tribal, academic and special libraries. A summary of each of these projects can be found on the following pages.

In total, the ICfL received 74 applications totaling \$2.8 million in requested funding, and we were able to fund 48 projects totaling \$1.8M. The selection process was highly competitive. In addition to considering the quality of the application and the project being proposed, the ICfL prioritized projects that focused on, or had a significant component of digital access and inclusion. We also prioritized projects that focused on or had a significant component of ensuring safe operations and COVID protocols. Due to limited funding, we were not able to fund project whose primary purpose was to respond to the general needs of their communities.

While the ICfL was able to fund a variety of projects, they tended to fall into the following broad categories:

- Updated and upgraded technology for patron use, including on-site computes, wireless printers, and other technology to ensure patrons had easy, reliable access to the internet.
- Expanded wireless networks that allowed the library Wi-Fi signal to extend to the parking lot for 24/7 access.
- Procuring technology that patrons/students could check out and use to access the internet from home, including laptops, tablets, and mobile hotspots.
- Purchasing and retrofitting vans and busses to serve as Wi-Fi enabled bookmobiles, bringing internet access, computer equipment, and other library services to underserved and hard-to-reach populations.
- Establishing and expanding digital book collections at public and school libraries.
- Purchasing PPE, plexiglass shields, and additional sanitizing supplies and equipment to allow libraries to keep their doors open and function safely.

A detailed list of funded projects can be located beginning on page two of this document. Projects are listed alphabetically by grantee name.



Library Name City (Library Type)	Award Amount	Project Description
Armoral Tuttle Public Library New Plymouth (Public Library)	\$7,500	This project will allow for safe and efficient library operations by purchasing UV sterilization equipment and sanitation supplies. It will also provide a central charging table for patron devices to allow patrons to bring and use their own devices.
Bear Lake County Library Montpelier (Public Library)	\$6,700	This grant will support services at two library branches. The project will include digital inclusion/access by linking the library to the OverDrive platform and purchasing digital content, as well as upgrading on-site computers used by patrons for internet access. The project will also increase the library's audiobook collection, a high demand service in the pandemic.
Blackfoot Public Library Blackfoot (Public Library)	\$11,000	This project supports digital inclusion/access by ensuring reliable access to Wi-Fi and printing, even if the building is closed to in-person services. The grant will purchase a Wi-Fi extender to extend the signal to the entire parking lot, as well as a Wi-Fi enabled printer that will allow patrons to print their documents at the drive-through window.
Boise Basin Library Idaho City (Public Library)	\$7,300	This project supports digital inclusion/access by updating the library's computer lab with new computers. The library is one of the main locations where people can access the internet and public computers in Idaho City, but the computers are currently outdated and do not meet the demands of patrons.
Bruneau Valley District Library Bruneau (Public Library)	\$12,000	This project supports digital inclusion/access by upgrading the library's technology to better support modern uses, including better internet access, virtual meetings, and other interactive online applications. The library serves as the primary place to access computer and internet services for the community.
Buhl Public Library Buhl (Public Library)	\$47,900	This project supports digital inclusion/access by improving the technology available to patrons inside the library, making Wi-Fi easier and more comfortable to access from outside the building, and providing devices and hotspots that patrons can check out and use at home. Funds also support safe operations by purchasing and installing RFID self-checkout technology.
Caldwell Public Library Caldwell (Public Library)	\$28,000	This project supports digital inclusion/access by bringing Wi-Fi and technology out into the community. The library will use grant funds to procure a van and will leverage other available funding to equip the van with a mobile wireless WAN networking device, as well as other technology such as printers. The van will bring these and other library services to different parts of the community to serve those without reliable transportation or who cannot access the library easily.

Camas County Public Library Fairfield (Public Library)	\$4,800	This project supports digital inclusion/access by supporting one year of subscription costs for the library's very popular checkout of hotspots used by patrons. These hotspots provide reliable internet access for people in this very rural part of the state.
Cascade Public Library Cascade (Public Library)	\$5,900	This project supports digital inclusion/access by upgrading the library's patron computers, which are outdated and not equipped with Wi-Fi. The grant will also support continuing safe operations by purchasing credit-card processing equipment for cashless transactions and upgrading the library's phone system, allowing for more efficient remote customer support and curbside services.
Clearwater County Free Library District Weippe (Public Library)	\$4,000	This project supports digital inclusion/access by procuring a new printer and iPads for patron use and creating a "Work from Home" station for community members. The project will support safe operations by procuring a Zoom license for the library that can be used to host virtual programs.
Clearwater Memorial Public Library Orofino (Public Library)	\$10,400	This project supports digital inclusion/access by procuring tablets and Chromebooks for checkout, with a specific focus on homeschool students. It will also provide updates to staff computers.
DeMary Memorial Library Rupert (Public Library)	\$3,200	This project supports safe operations by upgrading the library's HVAC and air filtration systems.
Garden City Public Library Garden City (Public Library)	\$83,100	This project supports digital inclusion/access by installing a "Laptops Anytime" kiosk in the library that will give patrons easy access to in-house technology that could be used anywhere in the building. It would also provide Chromebooks for checkout. The project will extend Wi-Fi to the parking lot for 24/7 internet access and support safe operations by installing an any-time pick-up locker and book return. Finally, the grant will support community needs by contracting with a part-time social worker to provide rapid emergency relief to residents.
Glenns Ferry Public Library Glenns Ferry (Public Library)	\$113,600	This project will support digital inclusion/access through the "Beyond Books Bus." The grant will cover the cost of procuring the bus, setting it up for service, and staff time required to plan and operate the project. The bus will provide a roaming Wi-Fi access point and will offer access to important services such as printing and computers, in addition to other library services. Additionally, the library will procure and maintain hotspots which will be installed in various locations throughout the community and outlying areas, in partnership with local businesses, to provide 24/7 public Wi-Fi access.
Gooding Public Library District Gooding (Public Library)	\$17,000	This project will support digital inclusion/access in a number of ways, including purchasing new patron computers that are enabled for virtual applications like Zoom, creating a comfortable private space patrons can use for virtual meetings or telehealth, and a one-year service contract for hotspots.

Grangeville Centennial Library Grangeville (Public Library)	\$6,100	This project will support safe operations by procuring and setting up a self-service station that will allow patrons to check out their own library materials and will also allow patrons to access the printer.
Hagerman Joint School District #233 Hagerman (School Library)	\$23,700	This project will serve both school libraries in the district by covering the subscription costs of internet hotspots for students without internet at home. The project will also procure new e-readers for students and new digital titles. The project will also replace books not returned during the pandemic and expand summer reading services.
Hailey Public Library Hailey (Public Library)	\$16,600	This project will support both digital inclusions/access as well as safe operations. This grant will allow the library to purchase AV equipment and improve its website to make it more user friendly and robust, including for users with limited computer experience. This will allow the library to provide more effective remote services (such as virtual programming, user-friendly catalog searches, and Spanish language features) when the library itself cannot be open. The project will also allow the library to provide enhanced computer literacy classes. The AV equipment will also be available for community/program use, such as school projects.
Hansen Community Library Hansen (Public Library)	\$2,300	This project will support digital inclusion/access by purchasing an iPad and three mobile hotspots that will be available for patrons to check out.
Idaho School for the Deaf & the Blind Library Gooding (School Library)	\$25,000	This project will support digital inclusion and access by providing specialized equipment for students with visual and/or hearing impairments. This equipment will allow students to more easily access real-time digital information in a format that is accessible to them. The grant will be used to purchase refreshable braille devices, digital book readers, high-definition magnifiers, and adaptive assistive technology.
Farnsworth Middle School Library (Jefferson Joint Dist. #251) Rigby (School Library)	\$5,500	This project will support digital inclusion/access by purchasing six desktop computer stations and a printer for student use. The school library does not currently have computers or printing available for students, which limits student access to the tools and resources necessary for learning in a digital world.
Roberts Elementary School Library (Jefferson Joint Dist. #251) Roberts (School Library)	\$14,900	This project supports digital inclusion/access by procuring a variety of devices available for students to check out, including iPads (equipped with digital reader apps and access to digital titles) and mobile hotspots. The grant will also support the broader needs of students by purchasing new and bilingual books to improve and diversify the library's collection.
Jerome Public Library Jerome (Public Library)	\$14,500	This project will address digital inclusion/access by procuring laptops for patron use (one-site and to check out), as well as purchasing additional hotspots to reduce waitlists for these popular items. The project will also allow the library to update their community meeting space with modern equipment that will allow for enhanced in-person and virtual meetings.

Larsen-Sant Public Library Preston (Public Library)	\$49,400	This project will ensure safe library operations by installing a complete RFID self-checkout and book return system. This system will allow patrons to check out their own materials and will also procure equipment that will make staff-assisted checkouts quick and touchless, thus limiting extended interactions with staff and freeing staff to complete other tasks.
Latah County Library District Moscow (Public Library)	\$34,900	This project will provide services at seven library locations. It will address digital inclusion/access by updating 20 on-site patron computers, including one with the Adobe Creative Cloud suite. The grant will also be used to purchase and equip a Wi-Fi enabled "Book Bike" that can be taken to various community events, from which patrons can check out iPads and other technology. The grant will also be used to enhance digital access in the library by purchasing various ancillary devices such as a wireless large-print computer keyboard for visually impaired patrons and mobile device chargers.
Lewiston City Library Lewiston (Public Library)	\$125,000	This project will address digital inclusion/access by procuring a Wi-Fi enabled van that can provide outreach services and bring library materials to various patrons and communities in the library's service area. The van will be equipped with technology that patrons can check out as well.
Mackay Library District Mackay (Public Library)	\$21,700	This project will address digital inclusion/access by procuring six updated patron computers for on-site use, as well as 15 tablets for patrons to check out and use at home. The project will also address community needs by expanding the library's collection of nonfiction books related to self-help, career development, social-emotional well-being, coping with grief, and other topics relevant to the needs of the community.
Madison School District #321 Rexburg (School Library, Jr./Sr. High)	\$10,000	This grant will serve 11 locations throughout the Madison School District. The grant will be used to expand the district's collection of digital titles available on Sora/OverDrive to meet the demand from students and teachers. Titles will be selected to fulfill current requests from staff and students as well as expand the overall collection.
Marshall Public Library Pocatello (Public Library)	\$24,800	This project will address digital inclusion/access by procuring a Wi-Fi enabled van that can provide outreach services and bring library materials to various patrons and communities in the library's service area. The van will be equipped with technology that patrons can use to access the internet.
McCall Public Library McCall (Public Library)	\$34,400	This project will address digital inclusion/access and safe operations by procuring an outdoor laptop checkout station equipped with six laptops. This project will also provide a 24-hour, outdoor e-access pick-up locker system for other library materials, allowing contactless checkout and expanded service hours for pick up.

Mountain Home Public Library Mountain Home (Public Library)	\$3,000	This project will support digital inclusion/access by procuring laptops and ancillary equipment, as well as customized software. These items will be primarily intended for use by individuals participating in local career development courses hosted at the library by Department of Labor and College of Western Idaho, to ensure that all residents have the technology access to participate in these opportunities.
Murtaugh School District #418 Murtaugh (School Library)	\$15,000	This grant will serve three school libraries in the remote Murtaugh School District. This project will support digital inclusion by establishing a digital book collection for the district and providing training to students and staff on how to use the OverDrive system. This grant will also support the community by expanding the school libraries' physical collection and allowing the district to keep one library open to serve the community through the summer.
Nampa Public Library Nampa (Public Library)	\$208,800	This project will support digital inclusion/access by allowing the library to procure its first bookmobile, which will be equipped with a powerful mobile Wi-Fi signal as well as technology available for use/checkout. This project will allow the library to bring services to those with transportation or mobility issues as well as underserved areas of the community.
Notus Public Library Notus (Public Library)	\$4,900	This project will support digital inclusion/access by upgrading the library's six patron computers and procuring two laptops and three wireless hotspots available for checkout. Upgrades include purchasing new machines as well as applicable software licenses for MS Office, etc. This project will support the needs of the community by procuring additional entertainment items such as games and DVDs for families to enjoy safely at home.
Oneida County Library Malad (Public Library)	\$24,500	This project will support digital inclusion/access by procuring a suite of laptops available for patrons to check out. The laptops will provide the foundation for the library's expanded computer literacy classes and will also expand the availability of computers for patrons\$. The grant will also be used to purchase seats in online training programs so patrons can also engage with classes from home when library classes are not available.
Payette Public Library Payette (Public Library)	\$8,800	This project supports digital inclusion/access as well as safe operations by purchasing outdoor seating to create a more usable outdoor space to access the library's Wi-Fi at any time. The project will also enhance safe, touchless, and easy access to essential services by procuring a wireless printer and compatible coin-vending system for printing. This will allow patrons to print from their own devices and reduce the need for cash transactions.

Post Falls School District #273 Post Falls (School Library)	\$50,000	This grant will serve ten locations in the Post Falls School District. It will support digital inclusion/access by purchasing and expanding each library's collection of e-books through the OverDrive platform. The grant will also support safe operations by installing self-checkout stations at each school library.
Prairie River Library District (Lapwai) Praire River + 3-counties of surrounding areas (Public Library)	\$148,000	This project will expand services for the rural/remote three-county library district, which consists of eight branches. The project will support digital inclusion/access by procuring and retrofitting a van, as well as supporting expanded staff hours to provide mobile services. The Wi-Fi enabled van will be used to bring services and internet access to hard-to-reach areas of the library districts' geographically large service area, especially communities with limited broadband access.
Richfield School Library Richfield (School Library)	\$30,000	The Richfield school serves all students (K-12) in the district. The bulk of this project will support digital inclusion by establishing a digital book collection for the school (they do not currently offer digital content). Digital content will include high-interest fiction, nonfiction, audiobooks and read-along books. The project will also help the library better serve its students by expanding its physical collection.
Roberts City Library Roberts (Public Library)	\$23,500	This project will support digital inclusion/access by upgrading the library's patron computers and software and procuring hotspot devices for check-out. The project will ensure safe operations by purchasing plexiglass guards, PPE, disinfectant, and social-distancing floor signs. The project will also support community needs by purchasing video equipment for remote programming and expanding the library's collection with new books and take-home kits.
Salmon River Public Library Riggins (Public Library)	\$10,300	This project will support digital inclusion/access in the rural/remote community by upgrading the library's six patron computers and procuring a wireless printer. This will enable patrons and visitors to access up-to-date technology with reliable internet and to print directly from the public computers or from their own devices (currently only staff computers are capable of printing).
Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Library Fort Hall + surrounding reservation (Special (Tribal) Library)	\$350,000	This project will serve the geographically large Shoshone-Bannock reservation and community. The project will support digital inclusions/access by procuring, retrofitting, and equipping a bookmobile. The Wi-Fi enabled bookmobile will travel to all corners of the reservation where people lack transportation or services. It will provide internet access, a computer workstation, books and other library materials, and staff who can assist with a variety of needs like résumé writing or homework help.
Soda Springs Joint School District #150 Soda Springs (School Library, Middle School)	\$5,700	This grant will serve three locations in the Soda Springs Joint School District. It will support digital inclusion/access by expanding the libraries' digital collection, and by upgrading library technology to ensure it can run crucial programs and learning software.

South Bannock Library District Downey (Public Library)	\$41,200	This grant will support services at four locations throughout the library district. It will support digital literacy/access by upgrading patron computers and software and creating virtual meeting spaces at the libraries. The project will support safe operations by purchasing air purifiers and creating several Little Free libraries through the district's various communities that allow for distanced book access. The project will also improve digital access and safe operations by enhancing outdoor seating for 24/7 Wi-Fi access.
St. Maries Public Library St. Maries (Public Library)	\$2,700	This project will support digital inclusion/access by upgrading three of the library's very outdated patron computers, as well as purchase a wireless patron printer that will allow patrons to print from their own devices. The project will support safe operations by installing a self-checkout kiosk.
Twin Falls Public Library Twin Falls (Public Library)	\$18,600	This project will support digital inclusion/access by creating indoor and outdoor workspaces that allow for better access and use of the library's Wi-Fi and technology. The project will procure additional routers to expand its Wi-Fi signal to the parking lot and add additional seating for outdoor access. The library will create semi-private indoor workspaces by purchasing modular glass dividers, and ancillary technology like webcams.
University of Idaho Library Moscow (Academic Library)	\$78,400	This project will support services at two library locations. It will support digital inclusion/access by ensure up-to-date technology is available for all students. Through this grant, the library will purchase a suite of laptops, mobile hotspots, and ancillary devices that will be available for students to check out and use for homework and projects.
Weiser Public Library Weiser (Public Library)	\$5,400	This project will support digital inclusion/access by procuring three upgraded computers for patron use and a new printer. The grant will also allow the library to establish a digital collection and initiate membership with the OverDrive consortium.