

Digital Access for All Idahoans: Community Coalition Call

Wednesday, June 12, 2024
2 PM MST / 1 PM PST on Zoom

Coalition Call Leaders/Facilitators:

- Deana Brown, Library Learning Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)
- Chelsea Summerlin, Digital Inclusion Consultant, ICfL

Coalition Call Presenters:

- Stephanie Bailey-White, State Librarian, ICfL
- Dylan Baker, Deputy State Librarian, ICfL
- Brendan Mooney, East Conner County Library, IT Manager

Meeting Recorder: Danielle Walker, Administrative Assistant, ICfL

Meeting Notes

Brown introduced the purpose of the quarterly community coalition calls: The ICfL is the lead agency working to create the Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan (DAAI Plan) <https://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-access-for-all-idahoans/>. These calls are an opportunity for the ICfL to share progress on that plan and for participants to engage in the process.

Brown outlined the agenda for this first coalition call:

- Update on DAAI plan
- Updates from East Bonner on their programs
- Q&A

Baker provided an overview of the building of the DAAI plan

- A lot of external research went into the plan: https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024_01_09-DAAI-Report.pdf
- Plan was submitted in November
- Fully accepted at the end of February (one of the first 6 states)
- We are currently beginning the implementation phase
 - Idaho's tentative allocation is \$6.3 million
 - Will be two additional capacity grants, waiting on Congressional allocations
- Initial year, we will be able to fund \$2.5 million, as set by the State, starting July 1
- Currently waiting for NTIA to review the Capacity Grant, earliest award expected Aug 28
 - Each State gets to decide how to implement their plans
 - ICfL will be doing subgrants for the majority of the funds (~\$1.1 million)
 - Individual grants can be for up to \$150,000, minimum amount of \$5,000
 - Goals must address one of the covered populations from the plan

- Will be expanding the Connecting Communities program – providing devices for covered populations (Learn to Earn); ~\$600,000 earmarked for this
- Tech Refresh – starting with libraries and then hopefully expanding out to other entities; giving libraries the opportunity to update to new hardware
- Larger amounts are expected in FY2026, after Legislature approval
- Summerlin pointed out that it's expected to be 5-year cycles
- Applications will likely open Aug 28th and be open for 5-6 weeks, grants portal will be managed by ICfL
- Information will also be available at Link Up Idaho & DAAI plan Newsletter:
 - <https://linkup.idaho.gov/>
 - <https://idaho.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=4973220c341616aa243f07426&id=2248b69070>

Mooney – BEAD program

- Has extensive IT background and experience in out of the box thinking
- Definition of Broadband has changed – FCC has increased the speed definition, 100/20 Mbps
- BEAD program – is “illuminating America with fiber optic internet”
- Broadband Cohort was created 4 years ago
- <https://commerce.idaho.gov/broadband/idaho-broadband-advisory-board/>
- Different models range from working with local providers and creating new providers
- BEAD funding is \$42 billion, \$500 million to Idaho alone
- Why libraries?
 - Who knows patrons better?
 - Large media collections = evidence of people not being able to download and watch what they want
- BEAD funding demands that there is a broadband action team to decide on where the projects are to be set for fiber to the home, the purpose is to put fiber in the ground
 - Previously, RFPs were setup but often fell short of promises
 - Taking a community approach instead of just relying on ISPs
 - Currently in the challenge process, showing how many are underserved or do not have proper access to broadband
 - Community partners are needed, not just tech-savvy
- Affordability is key to broadband access too
- Challenge Process
 - Opportunity to show data
 - Requirements: speed-testing, availability – bill or letter from ISP, MDU
 - Submit
 - Rebuttal
 - Final Determination
- Other ways to participate demand planning meetings, request plans shared, decide which partners to support

Q&A & Other topics

Greg Wilson – CWI

- Training students to be digital navigators, hoping to get to the point of having a training program they can roll out to others; utilizes Adult Services

Chelsea Summerlin – ICfL

- Will be hiring people to become Navigators
- Developing training and programs
- Here's a link to a few more ICfL Digital Access resources:
 - o <https://idahodigitalskills.org/>
 - o <https://materials.lili.org/digital-access>

Amber Smyer – South Central Idaho with University of Idaho Extension Digital Economy Program

- The University of Idaho Extension Digital Economy Program is also willing to help provide resources to Broadband Action Teams and get them connected to other BATs we know are operating! Email us at dep@uidaho.edu. We can also help BATs develop their own local digital access plan focused on adoption and use that can accompany their infrastructure plan, just like has been done at the state level!
- Hoping to expand capacity of Digital Navigators, using AmeriCorps

Stephanie Guyton – North Idaho Instructional Coordinator, University of Idaho Extensions Digital Economy Program

- Applications are open in the following counties for service year 2024-2025 Digital Navigators to help support with digital access and digital skills. Please share with your community to help us recruit and they can submit their applications at <https://apply.workable.com/lead-for-america/j/AC3F394300/>
 - o American Falls serving Power County
 - o Boise serving underserved populations and public libraries
 - o Cascade serving
 - o Valley County & New Meadows
 - o Fort Hall serving the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
 - o Lapwai serving the Nez Perce Tribe
 - o Montpelier serving Bear Lake County
 - o Mt. Home serving Elmore County
 - o Preston serving Franklin County
 - o Salmon serving Lemhi County
 - o Sandpoint serving Bonner County
 - o St. Anthony serving Fremont County
 - o St. Maries serving Benewah County
 - o Wallace serving Shoshone County

Jaleen Johnson – The Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center. **FIRST CALL HERE!** We are a HRSA-Funded non-profit and have many resources on digital health navigation and mapping of

telehealth access points, like the ones in all the Idaho libraries. See our resources at <https://nrtrc.org/>

- We have free telehealth training for digital navigators for anyone that needs a training program on this for their navigators.
 - o <https://nrtrc.catalog.instructure.com/courses/navigating-the-telehealth-neighborhood-a-guide-to-telehealth-access-for-digital-navigators>
 - o <https://findtelehealth.nrtrc.org/map> (shows libraries that are currently online for telehealth services)
 - o You can self-enroll your TAP here <https://wimtracking.com/taps/>