

THE ENVOY Newsletter

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Spring 2021

FOR IDAHO LIBRARY TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS BY THE IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

ARPA Grant Open

Idaho's allotment of the \$200 million awarded to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is approximately \$2.4 million.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) will award approximately \$1 million of the ARPA funding through its Libraries Keep Students Learning and Adults Earning/ARPA Grant.

The grant application period is open through June 15, 2021. The grant is open to all types of libraries in Idaho -- public, school, academic, and special, which includes tribal libraries.

Some ways that libraries can use the funds include: upgrading public access computers and software; for workforce development needs; to purchase books and online content; for the support of OER textbook affordability initiatives that help retain college students; to provide online and after-school tutoring; for telehealth and telelearning support, and much more.



Library directors, administrators, and staff know what their libraries and communities need, and the top priority is to get the ARPA funding out to libraries in every corner of the state to fill those local needs.

The ICfL will utilize the remainder of the ARPA funding to enhance some of its existing statewide programs, such as the Idaho Talking Book Service and our e-book initiative, the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA).

To find out more about the ARPA grant, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/grants-funding/arpa-grant/>.

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ICfL INFO

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Moscow Office -- **Temporarily Closed**
<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

MISSION

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

ICfL COMMISSIONERS

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Michael Strickland, and Pat Raffee

ICfL CONTACTS

Administrators

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Dylan Baker, E-Services Program Supervisor
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Supervisor
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Tammy Hawley-House, Deputy State Librarian

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Jeannie Standal, School Library Consultant
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Kevin Tomlinson, Field Consultant
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Staci Shaw, Youth Services Consultant
William Lamb, Library Technology Consultant

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Doug Baker, Software Engineer II
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Grants & Contracts

Jamie Mott, Grants/Contracts Officer

Cataloging

Allison Floyd, State Publications, Cataloging,
and Acquisitions Librarian

New Digital Inclusion Webpage

The ICfL recently launched a new webpage dedicated to the topic of digital inclusion. To explore this resource, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-inclusion/>.

On this page, users will find a wide variety of resources together in one place, including: E-rate and EOR information; a link to Idaho statewide contracts; digital literacy training; technical support; online content, including eBranch, IDEA, and LiLI; plus the contact information for the ICfL staff who can assist in these areas.

Adult Services Help Available

Do you struggle to find resources for your adult services programs? If so, visit the adult services page on the ICfL website: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/adult-services-resources-for-may-2021/>.

ICfL staff collect relevant stories, tools, and tricks do you don't have to. The information is updated monthly, so remember to check the page for the latest and greatest information related to adult services -- all compiled in one convenient location.

New Open Educational Resource

The Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) recently launched a new open educational resource, <https://www.opencontent.idahodigitallearning.org/>.

The IDLA Open Content Catalog offers help for students in a wide variety of subject areas, including English, math, computer science, foreign languages, health and fitness, and even a number of electives, including STEM careers, graphic design, business computer apps, and entrepreneurship.



Trustee Connections -- Coming in June

This year, the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Trustee Connections will be held virtually on June 18, 2021 from 1 - 3 p.m. MDT. Registration is open. For more, including registration, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/trustee-connections/>.

The workshop, "The Importance of Strategic Planning," will be presented by Minnesota-based Library Strategies utilizing their Rapid Results Planning™ model.

The workshop will include:

- Exploration of why planning is important for libraries and communities.
- Learning about the essentials and structure of a planning process.
- Investigation of why and how community engagement should be at the heart of a planning process.
- Exploration of how facilitated planning can lead to better prioritization of library needs, new perspectives on service, and better access for underserved communities.

Rapid Results Planning™ is a proven, flexible model built on broad and deep stakeholder engagement developed by Minnesota-based Library Strategies. The process is designed to be done quickly and culminates in a plan that has buy-in from a broad base of the community, making it ideal for smaller libraries.

Why plan?

- Strategic planning works. The need for strategic planning is broadly promoted by national and state library agencies because of its effectiveness.
- It's good for communities. An effective strategic plan identifies community needs, particularly for under-served members, and it fosters inclusive services that welcome and are meaningful to residents.
- It's good for libraries. With a community-driven plan, libraries are better prepared to face the changing future of libraries and reaffirm their status as vital centers of their communities.
- It makes planning accessible. This program builds capacity for small and rural libraries for whom the cost and time requirement of traditional strategic planning can be a barrier.

This exciting training opportunity comes through an LSTA-funded grant developed and managed by the Montana State Library, in partnership with Minnesota-based Library Strategies.

If you have questions about Trustee Connections, please contact Tammy Hawley-House at tammy.hawleyhouse@libraries.idaho.gov.

ICfL Consulting Area Map

The ICfL has a consulting area map to help you determine who your ICfL area field consultant is. Visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov>. The map may be accessed from several locations on the ICfL website, including the bottom of the main homepage, and via this link: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Consulting-Area-Map-April-2021.pdf>.

The area field consultants can assist library directors, trustees, and staff with a wide variety of questions, issues, and concerns. They also have many resources at the ready.

Survival Guide for Library Directors

-- Now Part of ICfL Website --

The “Survival Guide for Idaho Library Directors” is now part of the ICfL website.

It may be found here: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/survival-guide-directors/>. The Survival Guide may also be accessed from the homepage of the ICfL website under Library Staff, Leadership and Management; from the Publications page; and the Trustees and Directors page, under Library Staff, Leadership and Management.

The Survival Guide is designed to provide the unexpected library director with professionally curated resources that lead to success and to identify tutorials and expert advice on specific topics, duties, and tasks involved in running a public library, including planning, policy development, and resources to help illuminate the new director’s path to enlightenment.



The links in the right-hand column will take the user to printable documents that can be downloaded, printed, and placed in the library’s transition notebook. Each of the documents shows the most recent revision date, so be sure the most recent version of the documents is in the transition notebook.

The Survival Guide and transition notebook are designed for the accidental public library director to use as handy orientation and training tools.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for improving these publications, contact your ICfL area field consultant. To find out who that is, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Consulting-Area-Map-April-2021.pdf>.



If you have changes to the contact information for your library and/or trustees, please let Tina Schilling at the ICfL know.

Email Tina at: tina.schilling@libraries.idaho.gov or
call the ICfL at: 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.

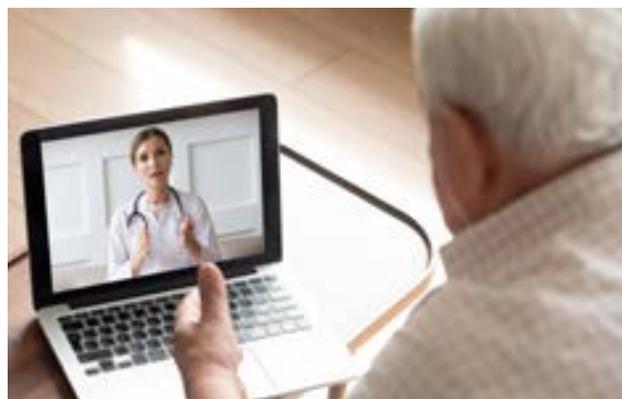
ICfL Receives Grant from Blue Cross to Pilot Telehealth

The ICfL received a \$30,000 grant from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health to pilot telehealth services in Orofino and Weippe to those who lack required technology and internet access at home to receive online healthcare.

The two pilot libraries are the Clearwater County Free Library District in Weippe and the Clearwater Memorial Public Library in Orofino.

The grant funding was used to purchase necessary technology and equipment required for telehealth appointments to take place at these public facilities. Telehealth allows healthcare providers and patients to meet virtually for many essential medical services.

“Idaho library staff are seeing increased demand for telehealth options and are ready to be part of the solution to increase the health and well-being of Idahoans,” Idaho State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White said. “They are a natural partner in exploring options for rural residents, and this pilot program will help pave the way for others who want to do more in this area. Libraries are welcoming community institutions with faster internet connections and video conferencing capabilities that many Idahoans don’t have at home. It makes sense to tap into those resources to deliver better services.”



Scottish Rite Books Shipped Mid-May

Thanks to a generous donation from the Scottish Rite of Idaho, the ICfL was able to purchase books for Idaho public libraries to use for summer reading prizes or outreach this year.

The number of books each library receives is based on the participation numbers the library staff reported to the ICfL in 2019. The books are geared for youngsters in kindergarten through fourth grade.



The ICfL will ask for comments about the books in the annual summer reading report, which will be shared with the Scottish Rite donors.

PLEASE consider taking some photos of kids with these books that the ICfL can share and utilize.

Email any photos that you have the right to use (Did you get a signed photo release form from the parents?) to your ICfL Youth Services contact or the ICfL public information officer. Access the ICfL staff contact page here: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/about/staff/>.



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Emergency Broadband Benefit Toolkit Available

The Federal Communications Commission recently announced that eligible households may apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), to help families struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. The EBB will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. For more on the EBB, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.



EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

WHAT IS IT?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- A household is eligible if one member of the household:
 - Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guide; lives or participates in certain government assistance programs;
 - Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
 - Received a Federal Pay Grant during the current award year;
 - Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 26, 2020; or
 - Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

THREE WAYS TO APPLY

1

Contact your preferred participating provider directly to learn about their application process.

2

Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-outreach-toolkit) to submit an application and to find participating providers near you.

3

Complete a mail-in application and send it along with proof of eligibility to:

Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7042
London, KY 40342

LEARN MORE

- Call 855-871-4311 or
- Visit [fcc.gov/emergencybroadband](https://www.fcc.gov/emergencybroadband)



To advertise this program to your patrons, utilize the EBB promotional materials, which may be downloaded from the site's toolkit page: <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-outreach-toolkit>. You'll find flyers, handouts, a fact sheet, social media posts, and public service announcements (audio files) in English, Spanish, and one geared for tribal audiences.

(A couple of downloading tricks. If there is no "download" arrow for the images, right-click on the image and "save as" to your computer. To download the audio files, click on the three vertical dots to get the download option.)



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