



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **2026 Marks the ICfL's 125th Year**

**BOISE, Idaho** – The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2026.

In 1901, the Idaho State Library was established by the Idaho legislature to organize new libraries and improve existing ones. Traveling libraries provided reading materials to the many mining communities and new towns that were springing up across the state. By 1910 nearly every school district had a school library.

The name and mission of the State Library changed in 2006 when it became the Idaho Commission for Libraries, the state's library development agency. The ICfL builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to best serve their communities.

The ICfL assists library staff and trustees in many areas, including grants, continuing education, website/tech support, and services/materials for youth, teens, and adults.

The availability of reading material in the home, whether owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children's achievement in reading comprehension. For more than 28 years, the ICfL's [My First Books](#) (MFB) initiative has supported Idaho children from birth to kindergarten who are unlikely to have many books in the home or a library card. MFB provides a book a month for eight months to each participating child. Since the inception of the program, 617,154 books have been distributed to Idaho children.

The ICfL and Idaho libraries help bridge the gap in broadband service, particularly in rural areas of the state. In many communities, the library provides the only free, reliable internet service, along with technical assistance for those who need it.

Libraries are much more than physical spaces and access to books. They are the hub of the community. Libraries provide a breadth of services, support, and connection for Idahoans of all ages and abilities.

For more about the Idaho Commission for Libraries, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov>.

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