

NEWS RELEASE

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Opportunities Start March 15 for Idahoans to Inform DAAI Plan

BOISE, Idaho –The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has partnered with Boise State University’s Idaho Policy Institute for support in creating a robust and comprehensive five-year statewide Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) Plan, which will serve as a benchmark and roadmap for achieving digital equity in Idaho.

As part of the data collection, focus groups will be held throughout Idaho in March and April. The qualitative data will be supplemented by stakeholder interviews. Participants will have the opportunity to answer questions about their internet use and barriers they face in accessing high-speed, reliable internet.

Focus groups will be held in: Burley, McCall, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Nampa, Pocatello, Preston, Salmon, Sandpoint, Coeur d’Alene, Grangeville, Hailey, and Orofino. Dates and times listed below.* Idahoans interested in participating in a focus group may register at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/digital-access/>.

The project planning process will focus on five areas of digital access: affordable internet services, access to devices, digital skills and cybersecurity, quality technical support, and accessible content. The objectives of the DAAI Plan will be based on five broad categories: technology and infrastructure; policy change (state and local); funding opportunities; increasing access among covered populations; and regional equity. The final report will be completed by September 2023.

“This is a historic opportunity to bring partners and people from across the state together to look at best ways to bridge the digital divide,” State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White said. “The funding that will follow the plan will allow the state to address barriers for many Idahoans. We’re glad to be working with Boise State University’s Idaho Policy Institute to gather quality data to inform the planning process.”

For more about the Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-access-for-all-idahoans/>.

The **Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)** builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to best serve their communities through statewide programming and resources, consulting, continuing education, partnerships, and aid to underserved populations. For more information, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov>.

The **Idaho Policy Institute**, housed in Boise State University’s School of Public Service, provides objective research to inform decision making. IPI helps public, private, and nonprofit leaders use evidence-based practices to overcome challenges and navigate change.

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Schedule of DAAI Focus Groups:

City	Location	Date	Time
Burley	Burley Public Library	March 15	5:30 PM (MT)
McCall	McCall Public Library	March 15	2:00 PM & 4:00 PM (MT)
Twin Falls	Twin Falls Public Library	March 16	6:00 PM (MT)
Idaho Falls	Idaho Falls Public Library	March 21	6:00 PM (MT)
Nampa	Nampa Public Library	March 30	6:00 PM (MT)
Pocatello	Marshall Public Library	April 4	6:00 PM (MT)
Preston	Franklin Co. District (Larsen-Sant) Library	April 5	5:45 PM (MT)
Salmon	Lemhi County District Library	April 6	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM (MT)
Sandpoint	East Bonner County Library District	April 12	5:00 PM (PT)
Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene Public Library	April 13	5:00 PM (PT)
Grangeville	Grangeville Centennial Library	April 19	10:30 AM & 2:00 PM (PT)
Hailey	Hailey Public Library	April 19	3:00 PM (MT)
Orofino	Clearwater Memorial Public Library	April 20	3:00 PM (PT)

*Subject to change without notice.

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