CARES Act & Libraries: Broadband and Digital Inclusion

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“To achieve [these] purposes, the funding is to be used as follows:

- Primarily to address digital inclusion and related technical support;
- Secondarily to address other efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.”

CARES Act directive to IMLS
IMLS directive to State Library Agencies

“Expand digital network access”

“Purchase internet accessible devices”

“Provide technical support services”

IMLS provided criteria for need

SNAP

Unemployment

Broadband Access
Our 3 Phase Approach

Phase 1: Broadband
- 35% of funds
- Targeting areas of high need, all rural as of now

Phase 2: Digital Inclusion
- 50% of funds
- All libraries are eligible, including tribal libraries and some museums

Phase 3: Reserve
- 15% of funds
- Looking for gaps after Phase 2 is well on its way
Phase 1

Broadband

- 35% of funds
- Immediate projects to expand broadband access
- Partner with UETN
- Target high need areas
San Juan County Library

Wireless Network

- Fiber connection to Montezuma Creek and Bluff + monthly charge
- Upgraded equipment in all 8 branches
- Remote network management
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation

- EBS spectrum license
- 3 EBS radios in 3 community locations
- Devices for circulation through tribal library
White Mesa

Fiber Connection

- Fiber connection at tribal seat
- Upgraded equipment for tribal library’s wifi
- Devices for circulation through tribal library
Phase 2
Digital Inclusion

- 50% of funds
- Direct grants to public libraries
- Competitive grants to libraries and others
- Community driven
Direct Grants

About $120,000 of Phase 2 has been distributed to libraries

- Focus on digital inclusion
- Locally designed community specific projects
- *Secondarily* to respond to COVID, but only up to 50% of award
Digital Inclusion Workshop Series
Educator: Vikram Ravi

1. August: Managers
   a. Identifying needs, designing DI programs, and responding to COVID with impact

2. September: Front line staff
   a. DI programming, inclusivity, and cultural competencies

3. September: Leaders
   a. Finding partners, long term DI planning, and responding to the digital divide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Spending Guidelines</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Devices to enable patrons <em>or staff</em> to participate in the digital world</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Resources, training, etc. to digitally empower people during COVID</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Tools, education, or devices to enable online job hunting and working from home.</td>
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<td>● Connectivity expansion in and around the library</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Devices of general interest without specific application to COVID</td>
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<td>● Programs or resources not focused on technology or health</td>
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<td>● General professional development unrelated to this unique situation</td>
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Competitive Grants

About $30,000 remaining in Phase 2

- Intended for libraries, museums, and community organizations
- Focus on digital inclusion
- May complement previous CARES funds
Phase 3

Reserve

- 15% of funds
- Likely direct grants to libraries and museums
- Plan remains fluid
- Assess specific needs after libraries launch Phase 2 projects
Phase 1 funding (ongoing)

April 2020

Prepare for Phase 2

May 2020

Phase 2 funding (direct grants)

June 2020

Late 2020

Phase 3 funding (direct grants)

2021

Prepare for Phase 3
Potential Partnerships

1. Connectivity and community support for rural workforce
2. In-home school network connectivity for student devices
3. Kiosks, lockers, and remote library services to support rural areas
4. Expanded device circulation
5. Federal and state support for libraries as connectivity hubs
Potential Stumbling Blocks

1. Infrastructure and space needs
2. Digital Inclusion experts to consult with libraries and help build digital inclusion plans for their community
3. Support and recurring charges for circulated devices
4. FCC restrictions and E-rate
Questions?

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