

CARES Act & Libraries: Broadband and Digital Inclusion



Liz Gabbitas
Technology & Innovation Coordinator
lgabbitas@utah.gov | 801-949-1275



“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

TV Whitespace

- 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

Spending Guidelines

Yes

- Devices to enable patrons *or staff* to participate in the digital world
- Resources, training, etc. to digitally empower people during COVID
- Tools, education, or devices to enable online job hunting and working from home.
- Connectivity expansion in and around the library

No

- Devices of general interest without specific application to COVID
- Programs or resources not focused on technology or health
- General professional development unrelated to this unique situation

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

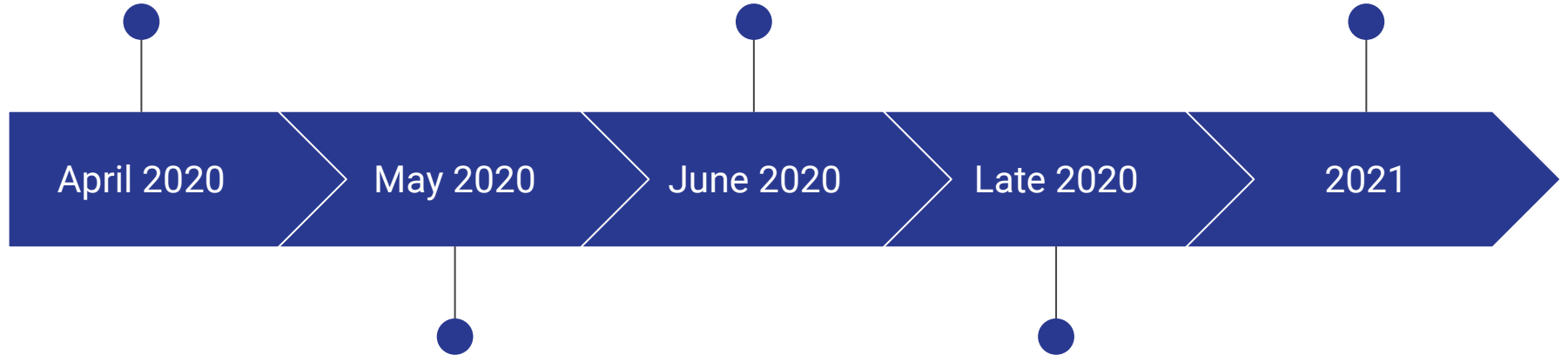
Reserve

- 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)

Phase 2 funding
(direct grants)

Phase 3 funding
(direct grants)



Prepare for
Phase 2

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?



Liz Gabbitas
Technology & Innovation Coordinator
lgabbitas@utah.gov | 801-949-1275

