2025 IDAHO OFFICE OF BROADBAND PERFORMANCE REPORT





Capital Projects Fund State Fiscal Year 2025 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-00258 Program Start Date: February 4, 2022 Program End Date: December 31, 2026

Funds Allocated to the Program: \$125,000,000

Program: Capital Projects Fund

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): CPFFN017

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Executive Summary

The Idaho Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program, supported by federal CPF resources, is focused on closing the digital divide by expanding high-speed broadband to households, businesses, and community anchor institutions, particularly in unserved and underserved areas. Consistent with the Federal CPF's objectives, Idaho CPF projects emphasize fiber-to-the-premise and wireless infrastructure, open-access service models, and strong community engagement.

During the July 2024 – June 2025 reporting period, the Idaho CPF program advanced broadband infrastructure development across multiple counties, directing funds toward engineering and design, permitting, material procurement, workforce expansion, and community engagement. Projects consistently aligned with the objectives outlined in their approved Program Plans, with funds supporting both core construction activities and ancillary efforts to ensure high adoption and long-term sustainability.

These investments ensure students can access online learning, seniors and families can benefit from telehealth, and small businesses and remote workers can participate fully in the digital economy. By aligning federal goals with Idaho's local priorities, the CPF program is strengthening communities, promoting equity, and building long-term economic resilience.

USE OF FUNDS & ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Infrastructure Investments

CPF dollars financed fiber installation, cabinet deployment, and wireless tower planning across counties including Salmon, Lincoln, Jerome, Owyhee, Camas, Madison, Franklin, and Aberdeen counties. By year's end, more than 511 miles of fiber were installed, 6,500+ locations were passed, and nearly 1,214 service connections were made.

Community Engagement

Ancillary funds supported robust outreach, including social media campaigns that reached over 14,000 residents, the distribution of more than 3,500 informational flyers, radio ads, and door-to-door outreach in rural communities. Public meetings, council presentations, participating in local parades, and booths at fairs built CPF project awareness, transparency, and trust, particularly in areas with no reliable cell or internet service.

WORKFORCE & LABOR STANDARDS

Contractors complied with Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements and federal safety standards, while many prioritized local hiring. Custer Telephone Broadband Services reported a 100% local workforce, while providers such as White Cloud Communications and Ziply Fiber relied on local vendors and subcontractors, reinforcing local economic development.

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION

Permitting Delays

Federal and state permits (particularly BLM and SHPO approvals) slowed progress in Owyhee and other areas. Project teams mitigated this by pursuing alternative routing, increasing coordination, and staging materials in advance.

KEY OUTCOMES & BENEFITS

Strong Early Adoption

Take rates are emerging as a primary measure of success, with project Salmon reporting 49% adoption (59 subscribers of 119 locations passed) and project Priest River achieving a 35% take rate in completed areas. These outcomes demonstrate high demand in underserved communities.

Community Impact

Families now have access to reliable broadband for telehealth and remote learning, small businesses are gaining connectivity to expand operations, and rural communities with little to no prior cell coverage are seeing transformative access to modern digital services.

Workforce Development

Beyond broadband, CPF projects created new technical jobs (field techs, administrative staff, customer support) and provided stable employment for crews in rural regions, helping build long-term workforce capacity.

Geographic Barriers

Remote terrain and complex crossings (e.g., railroad bores, bridge attachments) created added costs and delays. These were addressed through specialized contractors and early engineering adjustments.

Seasonal Restrictions

Winter construction moratoriums for some projects limited activity. Recipients responded by deploying surge contractor crews in warmer months to recover lost time.

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Scale Service Activations

Transition from construction to customer activations in Salmon, Lincoln, Jerome, Eden/Hazelton, and other areas.

Deploy Wireless Towers

Extend coverage to remote areas where fiber alone is not feasible, bridging service gaps for unserved households.

Leverage Provider-Developed Tools

Like the OpenAccess Idaho portal and the planned "drop-a-pin" mapping feature to sustain adoption momentum and ensure households in high-poverty, critical-need areas are connected.

Maximize Economic Impact

Continue prioritizing local hiring and vendor use to keep CPF investment circulating in Idaho's rural communities.

CONCLUSION

Idaho CPF funds have been used effectively to advance both the physical buildout of broadband infrastructure and the systems that drive adoption and sustainability. The program is already producing measurable benefits: miles of fiber built, households connected, strong early take rates, and expanded local workforce capacity while addressing challenges with proactive mitigation strategies.

As the program enters the next phase, Idaho is well-positioned to meet its objective of delivering reliable, affordable broadband to underserved communities, closing long-standing digital gaps, and supporting education, healthcare, and economic opportunity statewide.



Use of Funds

The Idaho Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program, supported by federal CPF resources, is designed to expand reliable, high-speed broadband access to households, businesses, and community anchor institutions across the state. Guided by the objectives outlined in the Federal Capital Projects Fund, the Idaho CPF program focuses on bridging the digital divide by delivering infrastructure that meets today's connectivity needs while preparing communities for future growth.

At its core, the program ensures that individuals and households, particularly in unserved and underserved areas, gain access to affordable, scalable broadband. For students, this means reliable access to online learning and educational tools. For seniors and families, it enables telehealth services that improve health outcomes. For small businesses and remote workers, it provides the connectivity required to compete in a digital economy. Each connection translates directly into improved access to education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and overall quality of life.

Idaho CPF funded activities reflect these priorities through investments in fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) infrastructure, wireless broadband towers, community engagement and outreach, and open-access service provider models that foster competition and affordability. These efforts align with federal goals of promoting digital equity, supporting economic recovery, and ensuring long-term resilience in rural and underserved communities.

Together, the Federal and Idaho CPF programs represent a strategic, outcomes-driven investment in Idaho's future, ensuring that connectivity is not just about technology, but about empowering people, strengthening communities, and creating equitable opportunities statewide.



SPEND REPORT

SFY25 SPEND (7.01.2024 - 6.30.2025

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	SFY25 Spend
Personnel Costs	\$43,388.89	\$31,330.95	\$32,411.28	\$29,066.67	\$136,197.79
Operating Expenses	\$327.85	\$ -	\$963.27	\$1,870.91	\$3,162.03
Total Administrative Expenses (Personnel + Operating)	\$43,716.74	\$31,330.95	\$33,374.55	\$30,937.58	\$139,359.82
Trustee and Benefits	\$4,192,478.53	\$(2,475,348.66)	\$7,567,821.85	\$8,781,871.66	\$18,066,823.38
Total Grant	\$4,236,195.27	\$(2,444,017.71)	\$7,601,196.40	\$8,812,809.24	\$ 18,206,183.20

TOTAL PROGRAM SPEND

	SFY24 (7.01.2023-6.30.2024)	SFY25 (7.01.2024-6.30.2025)	Total Spend	Budgeted	Remaining
Personnel Costs	\$154,682.80	\$136,197.79	\$290,880.59	\$900,530.76	\$609,650.17
Operating Expenses	\$207,293.05	\$3,162.03	\$210,455.08	\$4,095,000.00	\$3,884,544.92
Total Administrative Expenses (Personnel + Operating)	\$361,975.85	\$139,359.82	\$501,335.67	\$4,995,530.76	\$4,494,195.09
Trustee and Benefits	\$17,129,821.58	\$18,066,823.38	\$35,196,644.96	\$120,004,469.24	\$84,807,824.28
Total Grant	\$17,491,797.43	\$18,206,183.20	\$35,697,980.63	\$125,000,000.00	\$89,302,019.37

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Salmon Project: 13 miles of fiber built; 119 locations passed; 59 households connected; 49% take rate achieved.

Preston/Franklin Project: Walkout/Design completed; 30% of construction finished; delayed by seasonal moratoriums but on track for recovery.

Orofino-Grangeville Project: 161 locations completed and a 35% take rate; outreach efforts underway to boost connections; design and engineering finished, with construction to begin once permitting delays and the winter moratorium is resolved.

Owyhee County Project: Cabinets procured; ~65% construction complete; pending BLM permit clearance for feeder fiber.

Lincoln County Project: Nearly 95% complete; 10 miles of fiber laid; 262 households passed and 110 connected.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED & KEY MILESTONES

The Idaho CPF program delivers critical broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions across the state. Idaho CPF recipients have advanced their Plans through design, Program permitting, construction. activities. and engagement measurable outcomes reported via Project and Expenditure Reports.

During the July 2024 – June 2025 reporting period, Idaho CPF projects made measurable progress advancing broadband infrastructure across the state. Collectively, projects completed major planning, design, and permitting tasks, while accelerating fiber construction and initial service activations.

These achievements demonstrate that projects are advancing in alignment with the Idaho CPF Program Plan and the Federal CPF objectives to expand broadband access, foster digital equity, and lay the foundation for long-term connectivity across unserved and underserved communities.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT PERIOD

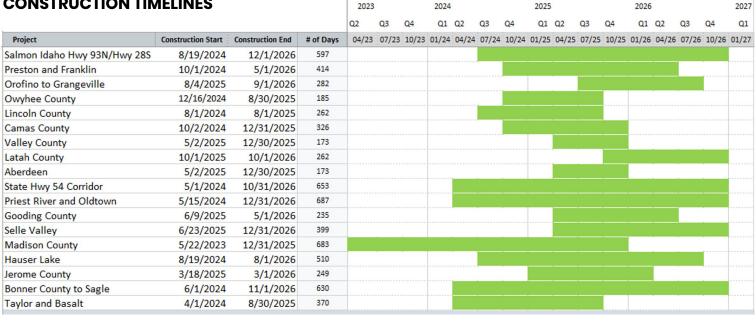
Moving forward, Idaho CPF projects will transition from planning and partial construction into full-scale buildout, integration, and service activation. By the close of July 2026, most projects are expected to achieve substantial construction milestones, transition into service rollout, and advance Idaho's CPF program toward its goal of delivering reliable, high-speed broadband to unserved households and communities statewide.

Key Priorities:

- Construction & Fiber Deployment: Complete remaining conduit, MST, and splice installations across multiple counties, with major fiber extensions planned in Salmon Hwy 93N/Hwy 28S (Carmen Creek and Hwy 93), Owyhee County, and Preston/Franklin.
- System Integration & Testing: Fiber splicing, cabinet configuration, and network performance testing, followed by user onboarding and phased activations.
- **Service Expansion:** Activate broadband connections in Lincoln, Salmon, Jerome, and Eden/Hazelton, while advancing Phase 1 construction awards in Orofino–Grangeville.
- Wireless Deployment: Begin and largely complete tower construction in key counties to expand service to remote, unserved, and underserved areas.
- Community Engagement: Sustain outreach through fairs, parades, public meetings, and digital tools, including a "drop-a-pin" portal in Orofino–Grangeville to drive awareness and adoption.



IDAHO PROJECT CONSTRUCTION TIMELINES



2023

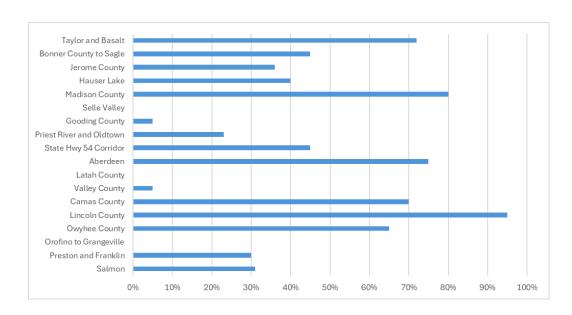
2024

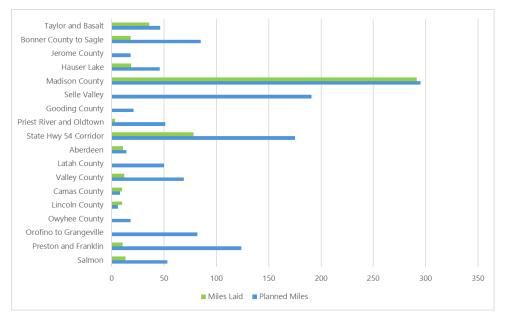
2025

25%

CONSTRUCTION STATUS

Of the 18 projects, 6 report being more than 50% complete.





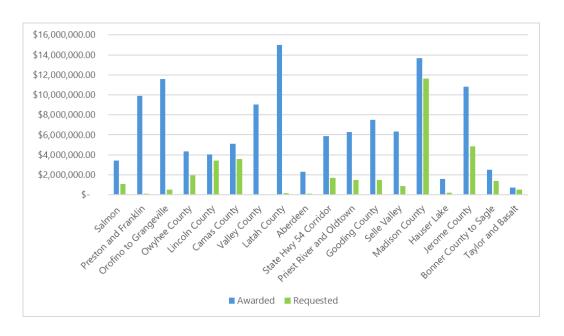
38%

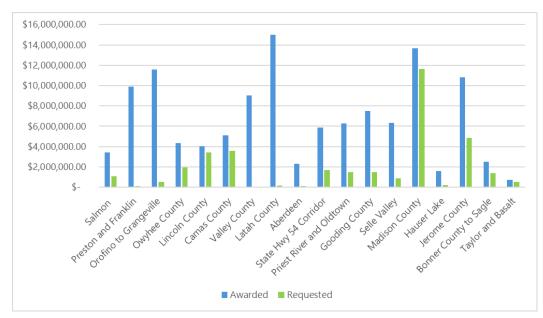
MILES OF FIBER LAID

Of the 1,352.16 miles planned, 511.3 miles have been laid.

21% LOCATONS PASSED

Of the 31,656 planned locations, 6,516 have been passed.





29%

FUNDS SPENT

\$35,196,644.96 of the \$120,000,000 awarded has been paid to subrecipients.



CHALLENGES & MITIGATION

During the July 2024 – June 2025 reporting period, Idaho CPF projects encountered several challenges typical of large-scale broadband deployment. Permitting delays with federal and state agencies, particularly BLM and SHPO, slowed progress in Owyhee County and Orofino–Grangeville, while seasonal construction moratoriums in Franklin County limited winter work. In addition, infrastructure complexities such as bridge crossings, pole attachments, and environmental reviews introduced delays in Salmon and other rural build areas.

To mitigate these challenges, project teams have strengthened coordination with permitting agencies, pursued alternative routing to avoid sensitive areas, and mobilized additional contractor crews to accelerate work during favorable construction seasons. These proactive measures have kept projects largely aligned with Program Plan timelines, ensuring momentum continues despite external barriers. Importantly, the lessons learned are being applied statewide to streamline processes, reduce risks, and maintain steady progress toward broadband deployment goals.

REPORTED CHALLENGES

Permitting delays (BLM, SHPO, and bridge/pole attachments) slowed progress in Owyhee, Salmon, and Orofino-Grangeville.

Seasonal construction moratoriums in Franklin County delayed winter work.

Geographic and environmental obstacles in remote areas complicated fiber routes.

Mitigation strategies included early coordination with permitting agencies, rerouting to avoid sensitive areas, and mobilizing additional contractor crews in warmer months.



BENEFICIARIES & MEASURING SUCCESS

The Idaho CPF program is delivering measurable benefits to households, businesses, and community anchor institutions in unserved and underserved areas. To date, projects have passed 6,500+ locations and connected nearly 1,214 subscribers, with strong early adoption reflected in Salmon's 49% take rate.







Success is tracked using both quantitative indicators, including miles of fiber installed, locations passed, households connected, and take rates, as well as qualitative measures such as community feedback gathered through outreach events, door-to-door engagement, and the Open Access Idaho portal. This combined approach ensures that progress is measured not only by infrastructure readiness but also by adoption and utilization, confirming that CPF investments are closing the digital divide and improving the quality of life across Idaho communities.

Households and individuals benefiting from CPF funds are primarily those in rural, underserved areas with limited or no prior connectivity.

Reported outcomes include:

- Students are gaining reliable access to online education.
- Seniors and families accessing telehealth services.
- Small businesses and remote workers are participating in the digital economy.

Performance is tracked through quantitative measures (miles of fiber, locations passed, service activations) and adoption metrics (take rate), supplemented by community feedback and engagement activities.



ANCILLARY COSTS & SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

In addition to core construction and infrastructure deployment, Idaho CPF projects invested in ancillary activities designed to ensure broadband assets are fully utilized and deliver maximum community benefit. These activities included advertising campaigns (radio, social media, and flyer distribution) to raise awareness of service availability, door-to-door communications and bilingual outreach to engage households directly, and public meetings and community events to maintain transparency and trust.

Other efforts focused on building the ecosystem around broadband adoption, such as developing digital literacy programs, hosting information booths at county fairs and parades, and coordinating with schools, libraries, and local councils to promote service sign-ups. By investing in these supporting activities, projects not only expanded awareness and improved adoption rates but also helped ensure that CPF-funded infrastructure translates into meaningful connectivity outcomes, closing gaps in education, healthcare, and economic opportunity for Idaho residents.

CPF funds also supported complementary activities that enhance adoption and ensure full use of broadband assets, such as:



Community Engagement

At fairs, parades, and public meetings to strengthen awareness and trust.



Direct Resident Outreach

Door-to-door and bilingual engagement and outreach efforts.



Educational Materials

Videos, animated shorts, Al generated FAQs describing fiber, broadband, and installation.



Advertising Campaigns

Radio, flyers, digital ads, etc., promoting broadband availability.



Stills from Fybercom animated educational videos describing the installation of fiber to homes and aerial fiber installation. These are posted online and were shown in Madison County Community meetings.

Addressing Critical Needs

During the July 2024 – June 2025 reporting period, the Idaho CPF program advanced broadband infrastructure in rural and high-poverty communities where connectivity gaps are most acute. These projects directly target critical-need areas, defined as unserved and underserved households, businesses, and anchor institutions lacking reliable 100/20 Mbps service, often in locations with little to no cellular coverage.

Awareness efforts were extensive, reaching more than **14,000 residents** through social media, **3,500 households** through printed outreach, and hundreds more through public meetings, fairs, parades, and door-to-door campaigns. Some projects worked to develop the *Open Access Idaho Portal* to further support adoption by allowing residents to track service availability and complete Right of Entry forms, ensuring convenience and transparency for those in critical-need areas.

1,214 connected, with strong early adoption reflected in take rates as high as 49% in Salmon and 35% in Priest River. Beyond connectivity, projects created local jobs, with examples such as Custer Telephone Broadband Service's **100% local workforce** in Lemhi and Custer Counties, and generated broader economic benefits through reliance on local contractors and vendors.



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that nearly **18 percent** of Idaho households lack access to fixed terrestrial broadband service at 25/3 Megabits per second (Mbps) and an estimated **22 percent** lack access to 100/20 Mbps service.

The Idaho CPF program awarded **\$120 million** to **18 projects** throughout Idaho, with the goal of **providing reliable high-speed internet** to **7,102 unserved** locations and **28,696 underserved** locations throughout the state.

WHO WE'RE SERVING & HOW "CRITICAL NEED" IS DEFINED

Critical Need is defined as Communities with no or poor broadband (typically <100/20 Mbps reliable service), rural/remote geographies with sparse infrastructure, and high-poverty areas where affordability and access have historically limited adoption. These include unserved/underserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions (schools, libraries, health providers).

Communities targeted this period include rural census blocks and townships across Lemhi (Salmon), Owyhee (Murphy, Grand View, Bruneau, Guffy, Rimrock HS), Bonner (Priest River/Old Town), Madison, Lincoln & Camas, Jerome & Gooding, Franklin/Preston, and others (e.g., Aberdeen).

Many of these areas face terrain, distance, and permitting barriers, and little to no cellular coverage and limited existing internet options, heightening the "critical need."

MAKING SERVICES FINDABLE, UNDERSTANDABLE, AND ACTIONABLE

Making Services Findable, Understandable, and Actionable Idaho projects utilized multi-faceted channels for outreach and prioritized accessibility and language equity.

Why this matters for critical need: In high-need rural areas (some with no cell signal), offline and inperson methods (meetings, mailers, door knocks) are essential complements to digital outreach so households can actually discover, ask questions about, and act on new broadband availability.

Mass & Targeted Campaigns

14,000+ residents reached via social media; 50+ radio ads aired; 3,500 QR-coded handouts distributed; andbillboards/newspaper spots in select counties.





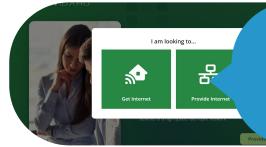
In-Person Engagement

7+ public meetings (e.g., 2 in Madison with 300+ attendees; 5 in Owyhee with ~60-75 total attendees), plus presence at fairs, parades, and city celebrations (Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, Camas).

Door-To-Door & Bilingual

Direct canvassing and door hangers in multiple projects (e.g., Taylor/Basalt), ensuring residents without reliable online access still receive information.





Open Access Portal

Residents submit right of entry (ROE) forms; the system provides real-time location status (planned → constructed → serviceable → activated) and powers phone/email follow-ups to "nudge" sign-ups.

Next-Period Enhancements

A planned "drop-a-pin" web map (Orofino-Grangeville) to capture interest from specific addresses and guide sequencing.



WHAT CHANGED, HOW WE'RE MEASURING IT, AND WHAT'S NEXT

Idaho CPF projects are progressing from construction to adoption, turning miles and passings into connected households, with measurable gains in high-need communities and a clear plan to sustain awareness, affordability, and access as networks transition to full operational status.

INFRASTRUCTURE OUTCOMES (READINESS)

Project Salmon built 13 miles, 119 passed, 59 connected (a 49% take rate)

Lincoln County ~95% complete with 262 passed and 110 connected

Owyhee advanced cabinet procurement and construction toward full build.

Preston/Franklin reached **30% construction** after **completing the walkout/design.**

Priest River/Old Town continued southern builds as **northern segments completed.**



511+ Miles of Fiber Installed

6,500+ Locations Passed

~1,214 Connections Across Projects

METHODS FOR MEASURING OUTCOMES

Operational Metrics

Miles built, passings, activations, take rate (tracked per location via Open Access Idaho/ROE data and provider reports).

Engagement Metrics

Meeting attendance, social reach (14k+), handouts (3.5k), portal contacts (hundreds).

Qualitative Inputs

Community meetings, council sessions, inperson feedback, inbound calls/emails, and targeted outreach results. Portal outreach.

PLANNED NEXT-PERIOD OUTCOMES

Finish remaining **conduit/MST/splicing**, commence **tower builds** to reach remote unserved pockets.

Scale activations (trial → phased go-live) in Eden/Hazelton, Jerome, Salmon, Lincoln, Owyhee, Preston/Franklin, and others.

Expand **portal-driven targeting** (e.g., "drop-a-pin") and maintain **event presence** to raise adoption, particularly in **high-poverty and no-coverage zones**.

ADOPTION OUTCOMES (USE)

Programs are pivoting from "locations passed" to **take rate** as the principal success metric. Examples include **Salmon at 49%**, MiFiber's early **35%** in completed areas, and projects reporting **hundreds of direct inquiries** and steady activations following door-to-door and portal outreach.

Open access models (where applicable) are **expanding provider choice**, supporting **affordability and competition** as networks go live.

HUMAN OUTCOMES (WHO BENEFITS)

Fiber and planned towers directly address **health**, **safety**, **education**, and **economic participation** gaps in several corridors that previously reported **no cell coverage**.

Students gain reliable access to learning platforms; families/seniors use telehealth; small businesses/remote workers gain stable connectivity for commerce.

Workforce/economic benefits: Local hiring (e.g., Custer Telephone Broadband Service's 100% local workforce in Lemhi/Custer) keeps wages local and builds long-term technical capacity in rural communities.

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES (CRITICAL-NEED BARRIERS)

Permitting (BLM/SHPO, bridge/pole attachments) and **seasonal moratoriums** slowed work in some corridors. Mitigations: **early agency coordination**, **alternative routing**, and **surge crews** in favorable seasons.

Geography/remoteness increased complexity; responses included multi-crew deployments, subcontractor pools, and Master Service Agreements to ensure labor supply and schedule resilience.

Affordability/awareness gaps addressed via openaccess models, sustained outreach, and simplified signup pathways (door-to-door, portal, call-backs).



Labor

Idaho CPF projects are committed to delivering high-quality broadband infrastructure while supporting local economic recovery through strong workforce practices. Across the 18 projects, recipients are upholding strong labor standards that ensure timely, cost-effective delivery and meaningful employment opportunities in local communities. These practices align with federal CPF objectives by promoting effective, efficient project delivery while also supporting economic recovery in Idaho's rural and underserved communities.

LABOR AGREEMENTS & STANDARDS

Most Idaho CPF projects are not under formal Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), however, some have executed agreements to guide labor standards (e.g., Ziply Fiber and select county-led builds). All projects comply with federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, ensuring fair pay and attracting skilled labor. Several recipients have also implemented Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) to emphasize local hiring, apprenticeships, and community reinvestment. Together, these practices strengthen workforce stability while supporting efficient and high-quality broadband deployment.

WORKFORCE SUPPLY & RISK MANAGEMENT

Idaho CPF projects have placed strong emphasis on securing a reliable workforce to meet construction schedules and manage project risks. Recipients are using Master Service Agreements, subcontractor pools, and multi-crew deployments to ensure adequate labor capacity across rural and hard-to-reach project areas. This approach not only accelerates construction but also provides built-in redundancy if one contractor faces delays or shortages.

Risk management is further supported by strict compliance with prevailing wage and safety requirements, which reduces labor disputes and ensures contractors can attract and retain skilled workers. Many projects also rely on local and regional contractors, which both stabilizes supply chains and strengthens local economies. Collectively, these practices safeguard project timelines, reduce potential bottlenecks, and promote the efficient, high-quality delivery of broadband infrastructure.

SAFE & HEALTHY WORKPLACES

Idaho CPF projects emphasize safe and healthy workplaces by embedding federal safety requirements into contracts, including compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. Contractors follow OSHA standards, conduct on-site training, and use public works specifications to guide safe practices. Several providers, such as Comcast Cable Communications and White Cloud Communications, highlight safety as a core organizational value, with proactive measures to prevent injuries and delays. These practices ensure efficient, cost-effective project delivery while protecting workers.

KEY WORKFORCE PRACTICES

Prevailing Wage & Compliance: Contractors report weekly payrolls to regional administrators for Davis-Bacon prevailing wage compliance, ensuring fair compensation and adherence to federal labor standards.

Local Hiring & Contractor
Engagement: Projects are leveraging
multiple local contractors and
subcontractors, each with several
crews, to accelerate construction.
This approach maximizes
employment opportunities within
rural communities while boosting
local economic activity.

Contract Work Hours & Safety Standards Act Compliance: All large contracts include provisions to comply with federal work hours, overtime, and safety regulations.

Employment Growth: New positions have been added across projects, including field technicians, administrative staff, and customer support teams, strengthening long-term operational capacity.

Collective Bargaining Agreements or Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs): Several projects (e.g., Custer County, Latah County) implemented CBAs that emphasize local hiring, apprenticeships, and reinvestment in communities.

Master Service Agreements (MSAs): Used by providers like Ziply Fiber to ensure wage compliance and consistent labor practices across subcontractors.

ACTIVITIES PRIORITIZING WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH

Federal Compliance

Most contracts over \$100,000 include provisions under the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, ensuring adherence to federal safety and overtime requirements.

Safety Protocols

Contractors implement safety practices through public works specification books, OSHA compliance, on-site training, and jobsite audits.

Provider Practices

Examples include Comcast's companywide safety policies, White Cloud Communication's proactive injury prevention measures, and Intermax's contractual safety obligations across subcontractors.

Organizational Culture

Several recipients emphasize that workplace safety is part of their organizational culture, integrated into daily operations and contractor oversight.

Emphasize Safety

Projects emphasize worker safety through compliance with public works specifications, OSHA requirements, and internal safety protocols. This includes on-site safety training, jobsite audits, and protective measures to minimize workplace injuries and delays.







LOCAL HIRING & ECONOMIC IMPACT

Idaho CPF projects emphasize local hiring as a core strategy to maximize economic and community impact. For example, Custer Telephone Broadband Service reported employing a 100% local workforce in Lemhi and Custer Counties, while providers like White Cloud Communications and Ziply Fiber draw on local vendors and subcontractors within their service areas. By keeping wages in rural communities, these practices strengthen local economies, expand workforce capacity, and ensure broadband investments contribute to long-term community growth.

DIRECT LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Custer Telephone Broadband Service reported a **100% local workforce** in Lemhi and Custer Counties, while other projects like Intermax and White Cloud Communications are drawing contractors directly from their project areas.





REGIONAL VENDOR USE

Ziply Fiber leverages **local vendors and subcontractors** within project markets, ensuring wages remain competitive and supporting nearby economies.

COMMUNITY HIRING PRACTICES

Projects advertise positions locally, emphasize compliance with state RFP codes, and structure agreements to ensure work stays within the community.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

These practices not only keep wages circulating within Idaho's rural economies but also build long-term workforce capacity, contributing to economic resilience and community growth.

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PRIORITIZING LOCAL HIRES

Workers and contractors are drawn from within regional labor markets, ensuring wages and benefits remain competitive while directly supporting rural economies.



COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS (CBAS)

Several Idaho CPF projects have adopted Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) as part of their workforce strategy, reinforcing both strong labor standards and community commitments. These agreements often establish requirements for local hiring, apprenticeship opportunities, and reinvestment in community services. While not applied universally, projects that implement CBAs are using them to strengthen stakeholder trust and ensure that CPF investments generate not only broadband infrastructure but also lasting economic and social benefits for Idaho communities.

Multiple Idaho CPF projects are leveraging Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) to formalize commitments to fair labor practices and community reinvestment.

- Adoption: While not all recipients use CBAs, a notable group of projects has implemented them as part of their workforce strategy.
- **Key Provisions:** These CBAs often include requirements for **local hiring, apprenticeship opportunities**, and commitments to reinvest in community services.
- Examples: Some projects reported submitting CBAs with their workforce documentation, reinforcing transparency and accountability to local communities.
- Impact: By embedding CBAs, projects strengthen trust with stakeholders and ensure CPF investments deliver not only broadband infrastructure but also lasting economic and workforce benefits in Idaho communities.
- Several projects have CBAs in place, explicitly committing to **local hiring targets**, **apprenticeship programs**, **and reinvesting in community services**, thereby strengthening the link between CPF investments and community well-being.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a critical component of broadband deployment, ensuring that investments in infrastructure directly reflect the needs and priorities of the people they are designed to serve. Through public meetings, local events, targeted outreach, and digital platforms, projects build trust, foster transparency, and drive adoption by meeting residents where they are. These efforts not only help connect unserved and underserved households but also strengthen relationships with schools, local governments, and community institutions, creating a foundation for long-term sustainability and equitable access to high-speed internet.

Across the 18 Idaho broadband projects, recipients and subrecipients advanced community engagement through public meetings, advertising campaigns, local partnerships, and direct resident outreach. These efforts ensured transparency, built trust, and supported service adoption in both urban and rural communities.

Overall, engagement efforts have been broad, creative, and increasingly data-driven, with clear evidence of strong community participation and growing public trust. Plans for the coming year focus on sustaining momentum through high-visibility community events, expanded use of digital tools, and continued bilingual outreach to ensure equitable access.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Several Idaho CPF projects have adopted Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) as part of their workforce strategy, reinforcing both strong labor standards and community commitments. These agreements often establish requirements for local hiring, apprenticeship opportunities, and reinvestment in community services. While not applied universally, projects that implement CBAs are using them to strengthen stakeholder trust and ensure that CPF investments generate not only broadband infrastructure but also lasting economic and social benefits for Idaho communities.

Looking ahead, these engagement efforts will remain a vital part of sustaining momentum as projects move from construction into service delivery. Continued outreach through local events, digital platforms, and partnerships with schools, councils, and community groups will help maintain transparency and drive adoption. By keeping residents informed and involved, the program ensures the successful deployment of broadband infrastructure, as well as long-term sustainability, equity, and measurable community impact.

Beyond advertising, projects reported three main engagement activities:





Public Meetings

Over 7 major community meetings hosted, including 2 in Madison County with 300+ attendees and 5 in Owyhee County with 60–75 participants.

Local Partnerships

Engagement with city councils, county commissioners, chambers of commerce, schools, libraries, hospitals, utilities, and community groups.

Community Events

Strong visibility at parades, fairs, and local celebrations in Lincoln, Camas, Jerome, and Gooding Counties.



Image captures from a video recap of a Madison County and Fybercom community meeting with resident comments showing project support.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Projects and the Idaho Office of Broadband engaged communities through councils, schools, chambers, local governments, and anchor institutions.

Custer Telephone Broadband Services (Salmon, ID): Sponsored local events (Salmon Rodeo, Speedway), hosted annual community dinner, and maintained open-access business office.

Orofino-Grangeville (**Idaho County/DIGB2**): Multiple public meetings with county commissioners and DIGB2 Board, plus coalition of cities, hospitals, libraries, and employers.

White Cloud Communications (Owyhee County): Partnered with Owyhee officials, schools, chambers, and councils. Hosted 5 community meetings (60–75 participants total).

Madison County (FyberCom): Engaged Madison County government, Chamber of Commerce, and hosted 2 public meetings with over 300 attendees.

Jerome & Gooding Counties: Attended fairs, parades, and city celebrations; city council meetings in multiple towns; county-level coalition engagement (e.g., Glanbia Nutritionals facility in Gooding).

+14,000

RESIDENTS REACHED



Lincoln & Camas Counties: Participated in fairs and parades; city council updates; direct door-to-door outreach. Hundreds reached via OpenAccessIdaho portal campaigns.

Comcast (Preston & Franklin): Engaged city councils and mayor, provided door-to-door construction notices.

+300

ATTENDEES

Kaniksu (Bonner/Sagle): Partnered with local water/fire districts and utilities to support awareness and safety.

Taylor/Basalt (**FyberCom**): Relied on direct, door-to-door engagement with bilingual support.

MiFiber (Priest River/Old Town): Coordinated with Avista, Network Connex, Wilson & Co. for community-sensitive construction.

OUTREACH, ADVERTISING & TRANSLATION

Outreach, advertising, and translation are essential to ensuring broadband projects reach the communities they are designed to serve. Over the past year, more than 14,000 residents were engaged through social media campaigns, 50+ radio ads were broadcast, and 3,500 flyers and handouts were distributed across project areas. In addition, hundreds of households were contacted directly through portal-driven email and phone campaigns, while bilingual materials and door-to-door outreach ensured information was accessible to diverse populations. These efforts expand awareness, drive sign-ups, and build the trust necessary to achieve high adoption rates, particularly in unserved and underserved communities.

Projects reported three main outreach activities:

Mass Outreach

Radio, newspaper, billboards, social media, and Google Ads used to reach broad audiences.

Targeted Engagement

Radio ads, social media, QR-coded handouts, bilingual flyers/door hangers, local custom marketing.

Door-to-Door Outreach

Multiple projects, including Taylor/Basalt and Comcast areas, deployed bilingual staff and distributed flyers directly to homes.

SUSTAINING & EXPANDING ENGAGEMENT

Outreach and advertising efforts will continue to play a critical role in sustaining momentum and driving adoption as projects transition from construction to service delivery. Plans include expanding portal-based outreach, continuing presence at fairs, parades, and community celebrations, and scaling bilingual and accessible communications to reach a broader audience. By maintaining visibility and accessibility, these strategies will not only encourage sign-ups but also strengthen long-term community trust and ensure equitable access to broadband services across all project areas.

Project Highlights

Custer Telephone Broadband Services

Direct mail, radio, newspapers, social media

Comcast

Door-to-door Informational flyers

White Cloud (Owyhee County)

Flyers at libraries, community centers, rural post offices; plainlanguage materials

Lincoln, Camas, Jerome, Gooding Counties

Billboards, door hangers, phone/email outreach via OpenAccessIdaho portal

MiFiber (Priest River/Old Town)

Google Ads, Facebook, Hardt Marketing, Parklife, plus tailored localized materials

Madison County (FyberCom)

Radio ads, social media campaigns, bilingual flyers, planned 2025 Fourth of July parade engagement with 2,000+ handouts.

White Cloud Communications and Idaho County

Maintain school, council, and coalition-based engagement to drive adoption.

Civil Rights Compliance

The Idaho CPF program affirms full compliance with all applicable federal civil rights and nondiscrimination requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Each sub-recipient agreement contains explicit provisions requiring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable federal nondiscrimination statutes and regulations.

Monitoring is conducted through quarterly reporting, project manager check-ins, and Treasury-required narratives. Sub-recipients are required to provide equal access to services, offer reasonable accommodations, and ensure nondiscriminatory employment practices. Examples include bilingual outreach in Owyhee County to engage Spanish-speaking households and Custer County's 100% local workforce hiring, demonstrating equitable service delivery and community economic inclusion. These practices confirm that CPF-funded programs are administered fairly, equitably, and without discrimination in accordance with federal law.

IDAHO PROGRAM COMPLIANCE MEASURES

Grant Agreement Assurances

All sub-recipient agreements contain the clause "Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements," which legally binds recipients to nondiscrimination obligations.

These assurances cover program access, service delivery, employment practices, and outreach activities.

Monitoring and Reporting

Sub-recipients must certify compliance during application, contract execution, and reporting cycles.

Compliance is monitored through quarterly project reports, project manager check-ins, and documentation review. Treasury-required narratives and data are collected annually as part of compliance reviews.

Accessibility and Language Services

Sub-recipients are required to provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities (e.g., accessible public meetings, alternative formats for program materials).

In areas with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, outreach materials have been translated into Spanish and other languages as needed. For example, one broadband sub-recipient in Owyhee County distributed bilingual flyers to ensure awareness in communities with Spanish-speaking residents.

Equal Access in Service Delivery

Broadband service expansions funded by CPF are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis to all eligible households, businesses, and community anchor institutions, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Workforce and Employment Practices

Contractors and subcontractors are required to follow Title VII employment practices, ensuring no discrimination in hiring or pay.

Example: A sub-recipient in Custer County reported 100% of its workforce was locally hired, reinforcing both economic inclusion and equal access to job opportunities.

Complaint and Resolution Mechanisms

Recipients and sub-recipients must maintain a civil rights grievance process and provide information to the public on how to file a complaint.

The Idaho office reviews any complaints received and coordinates with Treasury or DOI if necessary.

Capital Projects Fund State Fiscal Year 2025 Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 Idaho Commission for Libraries

Program Overview

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) administers Idaho's 1C Multipurpose Community Facility Program under the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF). The CPF program aims to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options. Within the CPF program, funds provided to libraries are part of the Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project tier of awards. The assigned federal Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for the CPF is 21.029. The Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) for the award to the State of Idaho is CPFFN0170. The CPF was authorized by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021.

Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000322

Program Start Date: March 2023

Program End Date: December 31, 2026 Funds Allocated to this Program: \$3,518,323

Program: Capital Projects Fund 1C Multipurpose Community Facilities

Executive Summary

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), an agency of the State of Idaho, is expanding the capacity of community facilities by using CPF resources to award grants to libraries for expansions, remodels, and construction projects. With these funds, the libraries will better serve their communities by jointly and directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring. During the reporting period, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the ICfL monitored 15 subawards, which were issued in August 2023. Ten of these projects are now complete and available to the public. In 2025, the ICfL opened an application for a second round of smaller subgrants to those who received the first round of grants. Eight subgrants were awarded in April 2025, and three projects are already complete and available to the public. During the reporting period, we also concluded the office hours series for the subrecipients.

Use of Funds

The total budget allocated to Idaho's 1C Multi-Purpose Community Facility program is \$3,518,323. The bulk of the funds (\$3,435,693.02) are allocated for subgrants to libraries carrying out construction projects; these expenses are designated as *project* expenditures. In addition to the subgrant program, \$82,629.98 was allocated and used over the last two reporting years for administration of the program, which included providing technical assistance to grantees. These expenses are designated as *administrative* expenditures.

Cost Category	State FY2024 Actual (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)	State FY2025 Actual (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)	Anticipated State FY2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)	Anticipated State FY2027 (July 1, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026)	Total
Administration Exper	nditures				
Technical Assistance to Subrecipients	\$71,841.23	\$10,788.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82,629.98
Project Costs					
Payments to Subrecipients for 1C Library Construction Projects	\$1,742,925.00	\$1,148,643.90	\$544,124.12	\$0.00	\$3,435,693.02
			·	·	
Total	\$1,814,766.23	\$1,159,432.65	\$544,124.12	\$0.00	\$3,518,323.00

During the reporting period, the Idaho Commission for Libraries spent \$10,788.75 on administrative expenses to complete a series of office hours offered to subrecipients. The series kicked off in the fall of 2023 after the ICfL contracted with Library Strategies to produce a series of eight webinars, 20 office-hour sessions, and a one-day in-person training for our library subrecipients. The focus of the series was construction in libraries. In addition to required participation by subrecipients, it was also open to the wider library community, including those who did not receive a Capital Projects Fund subaward. The webinars, in-person training, and most of the office hours were completed during the prior reporting year. The office hours concluded during this reporting year in August of 2024. Across the technical assistance series, there were 47 individual check-ins during office hours, 123 in attendance across the eight webinars, and 26 in attendance at the in-person training. Administrative spending has now concluded for Idaho's 1C projects. When subrecipients were asked about the technical assistance provided through webinars, office hours, and in-person training, they overwhelmingly found them to be helpful. Several of their responses are listed in the following table.

Did you find the programmatic resources provided to you by the ICfL to be helpful in the implementation of the grant (webinars, office hours, in-person training)? Would you suggest any additional resources?

I found the webinars and office hours to be very informative. Not necessarily with just our project, but with lots of projects in general. If we were doing a bigger project, the information was very helpful, and the presenters touched on many aspects that could possibly be overlooked by those completing projects. They were very knowledgeable and more than willing to field questions and help in any way they could.

Yes, I found the webinars helpful and interesting.

The office hours were helpful as they were regularly scheduled, and I could join when I had a question or issue. Having access to others provided feedback from a variety of people helping to make a well-rounded and informed decision on issues.

webinars were interesting

yes, thank you

I enjoyed the in-person training. I always appreciate being able to get out of the office and learn something new. I thought the webinars were also beneficial.

I did not get much out of the trainings.

Yes, the office hours and webinars were crucial to implementation. I also had lots of help from the ICfL. I have no suggestions; they thought of everything!

The information and resources provided answered many questions. It is very helpful if you have never been through a building renovation project.

The resources were great to help get things going. I have no suggestions.

Project spending involved disbursements to library subrecipients carrying out construction projects. During the reporting period, *project* spending totaled \$1,148,643.90. The ICfL monitored the subrecipients that were awarded subgrants in August 2023. The libraries made great progress and by the end of the reporting period, 10 out of the original 15 had completed their projects. These completed projects serve over 83,000 people. The ICfL issued eight new subgrant awards in spring 2025. Of these new awards, three libraries completed their projects by the end of the reporting period. The libraries are located throughout the state in both rural and urban settings, with some offering the only publicly available space in their communities for people to access reading materials, community meeting spaces, private study rooms, and the internet. Opening the new and improved spaces benefits local communities immensely and these projects would not have been possible without the Capital Project Fund subgrants. The following table lists individual subgrants and the *project* spending associated with each grant.

Project Number	Library	Project Status	Award Amount	Total Disbursed
2023 Awar	ds			
FACI2401	Bear Lake County Library	Completed	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
FACI2402	Benewah County Free Library District - Fernwood Branch	More than 50 percent complete	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
FACI2403	Burley Public Library	Less than 50 percent complete	\$500,000.00	\$185,473.90
FACI2404	Cascade Public Library	Completed	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
FACI2405	Clearwater Co Free Library District Weippe Public Library	Completed	\$107,000.00	\$107,000.00
FACI2406	Eagle Public Library	Completed	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
FACI2408	Emmett Public Library	Completed	\$53,000.00	\$53,000.00
FACI2409	Garden City Public Library	Completed	\$92,000.00	\$92,000.00
FACI2410	Hailey Public Library	More than 50 percent complete	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
FACI2411	Homedale Library District	Completed	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
FACI2412	Prairie River Library District - Lapwai Branch	More than 50 percent complete	\$200,000.00	\$75,000.00
FACI2413	South Bannock Library District - Inkom Branch	More than 50 percent complete	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
FACI2414	St. Maries Public Library	Completed	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
FACI2415	Wilder Public Library District	Completed	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
FACI2407	Elk River Free Library District	Completed	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00
2025 Awar	ds			
FACI2501	Benewah County Free Library District - Fernwood Branch - Grant 2	Not Started	\$46,598.02	\$0.00
FACI2502	Clearwater Co Free Library District Weippe Public Library - Grant 2	Less than 50 percent complete	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
FACI2503	Elk River Free Library District - Grant 2	Less than 50 percent complete	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
FACI2504	Hailey Public Library - Grant 2	Completed	\$16,995.00	\$16,995.00
FACI2505	Homedale Library District - Grant 2	Completed	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
FACI2506	Prairie River Library District - Lapwai Branch - Grant 2	Less than 50 percent complete	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
FACI2507	South Bannock Library District - Inkom Branch - Grant 2	Completed	\$37,300.00	\$37,300.00
FACI2508	Wilder Public Library District - Grant 2	Less than 50 percent complete	\$5,000.00	\$0.00

Subgrant Projects Awarded in 2023

Bear Lake County Library - Grant FACI 24-01

Bear Lake County Library was losing their main parking lot as the adjacent owner was selling the land. Additionally, their patrons could not access the library safely in the winter due to ice and snow buildup resulting from roof runoff. With a lack of safe and reliable access to the building during the long winter months, the library applied for one of the Capital Project Fund Facilities Improvement Grants. With their award of \$4,800, the roof was modified to redirect runoff from snow and ice melting. The buildup is no longer on the main sidewalk and is maintainable with ice melt. Signage was installed to indicate ADA parking as well as library use parking.

Benewah County Free Library District - Grant FACI 24-02

With an old building that was no longer functional or meeting the needs of the community, the library set out to build a new building that will serve the tri-community corridor of Fernwood, Santa, and Emida, Idaho. The library made great strides during the reporting period with their \$500,000 award. They held a groundbreaking ceremony in July 2024. Work proceeded and included site preparation; establishing water and sewer connections; installing cement footings; framing the walls; installing the electrical, plumbing, framing, windows, doors, HVAC, and roofing. At the end of June 2025, the exterior of the building was complete, and the contractor was planning for the next construction phases.



The exterior of the Benewah County Free Library District.



The exterior of the Benewah County Free Library District.



The exterior of the Benewah County Free Library District.

Burley Public Library – Grant FACI 24-03

The Burley Public Library is using their \$500,000 award to add a 1,900 square-foot addition and remodeling 600 square feet of existing space to create a community meeting space and two private study rooms. The library held a groundbreaking ceremony in March 2025 and have since completed the foundation and floor joists. The plumbing and sprinkler systems were partially installed by the end of the reporting period.



Groundbreaking ceremony at the Burley Public Library.



The Burley Public Library addition in progress.



The Burley Public Library addition in progress.

Cascade Public Library - Grant FACI 24-04

The Cascade Public Library added a 1,000 square-foot addition and remodeled a portion of the building to hold a large classroom/meeting room, children's area, two ADA-accessible bathrooms, a storage space, and a new kitchen. With their award of \$500,000, they also updated a 1,500 square-foot outdoor space for outdoor programming. They completed their project at the end of January 2025.



The new kitchen at the Cascade Public Library.



The new classroom / meeting room at the Cascade Public Library.



Teen/children's room at the Cascade Public Library.



Reimagined outdoor area the Cascade Public Library.

Clearwater County Free Library District, Weippe Library - Grant FACI 24-05

The library used their \$107,000 award to complete several projects that enhance the accessibility and usability of the library and resources available for work, education, and health monitoring. With an unpaved parking area outside the lower level, getting to the building was a challenge, especially during the long winter months. The library paved the lower parking and access area with asphalt so that patrons can now more easily access the building. The interior and exterior Wi-Fi service was improved by installing a new access point on the lower level, as well as a direct network port. The library created two new exterior Wi-Fi hotspot bars on each end of the building under the covered roof on the wraparound deck. The library also upgraded the current railing system for safety and installed a 22kw generator to use during power outages.



Preparing the area around the Weippe Public Library for asphalt application.



Paving the lower parking area at the Weippe Public Library.



Paving the lower parking area at the Weippe Public Library.



Preparing the area around the Weippe Public Library for asphalt application. Old railing still in place.



Railing detail at the Weippe Public Library.



Completed paving, generator, one WIFI bar, and new railing at the Weippe Public Library.

Eagle Public Library – Grant FACI 24-06

The Eagle Public Library installed ADA-compliant automatically opening doors for their restrooms and purchased additional seating to allow for full usage of existing spaces. They completed their \$15,000 grant project during the previous reporting period.

Elk River Free Library District – Grant FACI 24-07

The completed \$43,000 project included the installation of 18-inch culverts and catch basins to create safe and dry access to the library during the winter and spring. This will prevent patrons from having to navigate ice and significant pooled water. It will also keep the interior of the library dry, which was previously an issue due to the pooling and high water table. A concrete ADA-accessible pathway was installed from the back porch to the parking lot and gazebo. A concrete pad was poured, and a gazebo was installed to make a useable outdoor meeting and workspace.



The new gazebo and covered seating area outside the Elk River Free Library District. The newly paved sidewalk connects the parking area, gazebo, and back library entrance.



The paved sidewalk and gazebo at Elk River Free Library District.

Emmett Public Library – Grant FACI 24-08

The Emmett Public Library was awarded a \$53,000 grant to improve building access by removing the old entry door and installing a new electronic ADA-accessible front door and a gazebo to cover the holds locker and an outdoor seating area. The project was completed during the previous reporting year.



The new gazebo and covered seating area outside the Emmett Public Library



The new automatically opening ADA accessible front door at the Emmett Public Library.

Garden City Public Library – Grant FACI 24-09

The Garden City Public Library's award of \$92,000 was used to remodel an existing space to create two ADA-compliant private study/telehealth meeting spaces. While the library serves a city population of around 13,000 people, private rooms were never available to the community. With the grant funds, the library enclosed two study/work rooms with glass walls and doors. The rooms will be separated with an opaque wall. The rooms will include heating and cooling, along with a connection to the building's fire detection and suppression system.



A new study room in the Garden City Public Library.



The second study room in the Garden City Public Library.

Hailey Public Library – Grant FACI 24-10

With a grant award of \$50,000, the Hailey Public Library plans to build an enclosed computer lab to facilitate improved use of computer and electronic resources. Additional seating, furniture, and fixtures will also be installed to increase access and use. The library began construction in spring 2025 and anticipates completing the project in early fall 2025.

Homedale Library District – Grant FACI 24-11

The Homedale Library District used their \$19,000 grant award to upgrade several spaces in their library complex. They upgraded the electrical system in two of the library's buildings (the meeting/programming building and original 1921 building) to allow for better and safer use and accommodate future technology. A new floor was installed in the meeting/programming building. They installed a free-standing storage shed for programming materials. Three units of new shelving were installed to increase public access to the collection. These upgrades allow for increased patron access to educational reading materials and make more meeting and programming space available to the public.



New shelving units at the Homedale Library District.



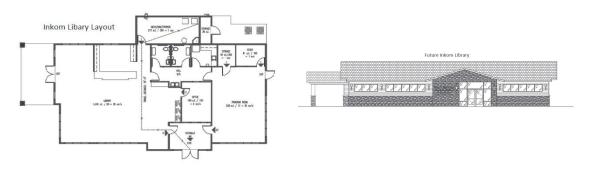
New storage shed at the Homedale Library District

Prairie River Library District, Lapwai Branch – Grant FACI 24-12

The Lapwai Branch of the Prairie River Library District was suffering from slumping and cracking along the back portion of the building. The condition became so severe as to cause the library to close that area of the building to access altogether. With their grant of \$200,000, the library contracted with an engineering firm and a local contractor that focuses on design-build projects. The final preliminary work was completed during the reporting period, and it was discovered that there were no footings under the slumping wall. This was corrected and the wall will be rebuilt. With the structure secured, the library will be able to reopen that portion of the building to the public.

South Bannock Library District, Inkom Branch – Grant FACI 24-13

The town of Inkom is getting a new library branch with the South Bannock Library District's \$500,000 grant. The town previously only had access to a bookmobile service and is situated in an area with a rapidly growing population. The library broke ground in July 2024 and has made strides toward their anticipated October 2025 grand opening. The library district was able to secure additional funds from a voter-approved plant facilities levy that passed in May 2024.



Architectural plans for the new Inkom library.

St. Maries Public Library – Grant FACI 24-14

The St. Maries Public Library was awarded \$500,000 to enclose a 1,300-square foot open-air daylight basement that will be used as meeting space and include an ADA-compliant restroom and teaching kitchen. The construction for the project is concluded and once the final payment to the contractor is made, the project will be complete. The space is currently available to the public and receiving use.



The completed expansion of the St. Maries Public Library building, as seen from the exterior.



The new meeting room at St. Maries Public Library.



The new meeting room at St. Maries Public Library.



The exterior of the St. Maries Public Library building during its 2024 expansion.



The interior of the St. Maries Public Library building during construction.



The interior of the St. Maries Public Library building during construction.

Wilder Public Library District – Grant FACI 24-15

The Wilder Public Library completed their \$175,000 grant project. It consisted of updating an old meeting/program room, new framing for the cinder block walls, drywall, electrical, wiring, and cables. The restroom was brought into ADA compliance with a wider doorway, and new walls, paint, floor, toilet, and sink. An old furnace was replaced with a new energy-efficient unit. A foyer entrance to the building was constructed to allow easier access to the program/meeting room. A push-button door was installed in the new foyer to allow for better accessibility. A new outside meeting/program area was also constructed.



The new foyer entrance to the Wilder Public Library.



The new foyer entrance to the Wilder Public Library.



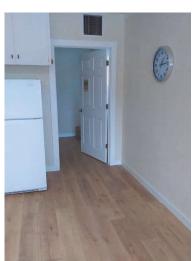
The new ADA-accessible restroom at the Wilder Public Library.



The updated classroom / meeting room at the Wilder Public Library.



The updated classroom / meeting room at the Wilder Public Library.



The updated classroom / meeting room at the Wilder Public Library.

Library Subrecipient Feedback for the CPF Program

For libraries with completed projects, their communities are already benefiting. When asked to describe a success story from their project, libraries shared the comments listed in following table.

Describe a success story from your project. Are there any other important project outcomes or findings you would like to share?

The new parking area has allowed for patrons to park closer to the building without having to park in the street or down the block, thus keeping kids from having to cross the street when coming to the library.

Everyone that comes to the library are so amazed at how well the addition turned out. Our foot traffic has increased since we opened the addition for use.

Sometimes it's the little things that are most satisfying. Getting our lower parking lot paved to improve access to the basement is a success in my book. Seeing an elderly lady in a wheelchair being able to easily enter the building weekly for a... study group, as well as others that prefer not to use the steps is our way of meeting the needs of our community. Providing the outside Wi-Fi bars with electrical outlets is another success story. A... lady would come daily for several hours to sit outside with her dog to have internet access and charge her devices. I even saw her bring her coffee pot to plug in and have coffee while sitting there.

The most visible success from the project is that children, older adults, and those needing assistance opening the restroom doors can easily access the restrooms because of the automatic door openers.

The project scope originally included the entrance door and patio covering. As we began with the external door replacement, it was brought up that our interior doors, dated back to 1973, could possibly be replaced by the exterior doors. This made a lot of sense to us and the library set plans in place to make that happen. With donation of our Friends of the Library we were able to complete this project. Updating yet another area, making our library easier to access for all.

In terms of assisting the community, I am thrilled patrons are finding benefit in the study rooms so quickly. To have 38 uses in the first 10 days is quite the success story. We have had a dad who recently started working from home and was thrilled to find a space for some alone time. We have had a tutor who was excited to be able to schedule tutor sessions more easily. We have had a nervous patron walk in with a zoom meeting about to start and we were able to get them in a room and on our Wi-Fi before they were late.

In terms of assisting staff, I am thrilled we are able to say yes to patrons when they call asking for study rooms. It is not fun to have to go to work and tell people you cannot help them. It chips away at your sense of purpose and lessens your quality of life at work.

We have received a lot of positive feedback from the public about our new community room. It is now used twice a week by WIC (Women, Infant, and Children). We use it for our youth programs and to hold various adult classes including a weekly Dave Ramsey class. Additionally, someone rents it out almost every other day of the week. It has been a great asset to our community.

I have received so many kind words on how beautiful the new building is and how excited they are to have a library in their town. We are very excited to bring programing as well as books to the... library. These will include story times for young children and game days and Friday fun labs for older kids. We will have our Forever Friends group that has presentations for technology education, healthcare related sessions and other presentations for our adult patrons.

There have been many success stories already. Patrons have all been incredibly happy and excited about the newly renovated space. Before the renovation, the library was limited to how many programs it was able to do. We are now able to do programs and classes in the remodeled program/meeting room. The new push button handicap door has helped our disabled patrons and those who have trouble with mobility. The new renovation has pulled the library together in a positive way. With the renovated spaces the library will be able to give the community access to work, education, and health monitoring services. There is so much to look forward to in using this newly renovated space.

The building has not been done for more than a few weeks and we have already had Health and Welfare use it to meet with some clients... we have had a patron use it take a test, the library is currently using it for our Summer Reading 'store', and we have a crochet class and a Book Club scheduled to use it in the next week. My next plan is to start the process to use the building for telehealth appointments for people in our community.

Libraries also learned a great deal during the construction process. Listed in the following table are several of the responses when we asked about their most significant lessons learned.

Explain one or two of the most significant lessons learned for others wanting to complete a similar project.

When it comes to snow runoff, it is hard to predict exactly where the issues might be and more time to research prior would have been helpful. If you have time to give your project plenty of research, do the research. See what others have done and explore many possible options. However, some projects are needed quickly to solve an immediate problem. Also, budget a little extra for other issues that arise while completing your project.

The next time I do a project this size, I would include a penalty on the main contractor on every day or week that they don't start work the day they said they would and deduct money when the contractor changes the completion date. In addition, I would also make a detailed list of what finish products they are going to install.

As with my original building project 20 years ago, the same holds true today, "timelines are meant to be broken." I learned not to get too stressed out about not meeting an original timeline. You need to be flexible and work with contractors and suppliers, some things are out of their control as well.

Look around at your facility. Where are people having difficulty accessing a part of the building or service. If you can identify the problem, it's probably fixable.

Keep an open mind. Know your supporters in the community. Always have time to talk about the project outcomes and needs.

The most important lesson I learned was to hire a construction company for projects of this size. One might think they can save some money and manage the project themselves, but that is not the case. The amount of the moving parts in this project was astronomical. Even the construction lead, a seasoned veteran, said that the amount of management needed for these two small rooms was surprising. If we had not had his expertise and connections in the industry this project probably would not have happened.

My biggest lesson learned was I did not figure in near enough money for the costs of labor for each project. The library budget had to cover more than I had planned on.

I think an important lesson I learned was to be in almost constant communication with the construction company, this way things are not easily missed. Also make sure to check and recheck orders made from a 3rd party for you, possibly getting another qualified individual to look it over for you. We had some issues with the company hired to do our internet install.

We did have a Board that was committed to the project which helped us successfully get through the project. There were still important decisions to be made because the cost of construction is extremely expensive at this time. Although the library has been through several major remodeling phases in this building with building plans, it took some time to get all the non-construction things required before construction started. There were a few challenges with costs and getting started, but once construction started things went smoothly. There are going to be challenges along the way, but commitment to the project will ensure that things are completed.

My biggest lesson is that people are very generous! Our handyman gave me a discount on laying the floor, and we did not have to pay for the painting of the inside of the building, due to being a library. So, we had a little extra funds to furnish the building for future uses - such as getting the stackable chairs and folding table.

One thing I have learned from this project is to have some flexibility on timelines and stay in constant communication with the companies working for you. I now realize that construction timelines are very fluid and can change for better or worse, depending on the issue at hand, such as weather and subcontractors' other jobs they are currently working on.

Subgrants Awarded in 2025

The Idaho Commission for Libraries opened a second round of Capital Projects Fund subgrant funding to Idaho libraries from February 1 – March 15, 2025. The application was opened to libraries that received an award during the first round of funding in 2023. Applicants could request funding amounts between \$5,000 and \$50,000 for projects that built upon, expanded the scope, or enhanced the original projects, rather than covering budget shortfalls from the original project. Ten libraries applied requesting a total of \$380,000. A review committee consisting of five ICfL staff members read and scored the applications. A scoring rubric was used that factored in demonstrated need; project quality; risk and feasibility; and project access and sustainability. The review committee made award decisions in April. Eight awards totaling \$176,893.02 were issued. Below is a summary of grant project descriptions and progress.

Benewah County Free District Library, Fernwood Branch – FACI 25-01
Funding in the amount of \$46,598.02 will be used for interior door, trim, finishes,
flooring, cabinetry and both interior and exterior paint to complete the new library
building that replaces an existing structure that is no longer functional nor meets the
needs of the community.

The project is still in the planning phase and is anticipated to begin soon, with completion planned during the remaining summer months.

• Clearwater County Free Library District – Grant FACI 25-02

The library will use their \$5,000 award to replace the library's front door to improve accessibility. The grant will also support the purchase of event chairs, tables, and tech room seating to maximize use of existing spaces.

The library is working with the contractor on a new door design. The current door requires patrons to push a button then pull on the door to open it, creating challenges for many who end up needing assistance. After the design is finalized, installation will begin.

• Elk River Free Library District – Grant FACI 25-03

Funding in the amount of \$6,000 will be used to pour concrete under the front and back porches, as well as to purchase and install an ADA electronic door opener. These improvements will enhance safe access to both the front and rear entrances of the library building.

The library met with the contractor who will excavate and remove the existing asphalt under the front porch roof, where the concrete will be poured. The next step will be setting a date. The library also purchased an automatic door opening system. Next, they will purchase the door and threshold and move forward with installation.

• Hailey Public Library – Grant FACI 25-04

The Hailey Public Library used their \$16,995 award to build a four-person soundproof pod, creating a private space for meetings. The project repurposes underutilized areas to host educational, workforce development, and health-related meetings for the community. The project was completed by the end of the reporting period, June 30, 2025.

Homedale Library District – Grant FACI 25-05

The library used their \$10,000 award to improve accessibility and safety by sanding, refinishing, and restoring the floor in one of the library's buildings; professionally painting the interior; and installing a mini-split heat pump to enhance usability of library meeting spaces during extreme weather. This will transform the space into another public-use meeting/community use space. The project was completed by the end of the reporting period, June 30, 2025.

• Prairie River Library District, Lapwai Branch- Grant FACI 25-06

The library was awarded \$50,000 to support the renovation of an existing space into the library's first public-use meeting room, designed to meet community needs while prioritizing access and safety. The project will also provide office equipment for the space.

The library is working with a contractor on the initial phase of the design/build project. The space is currently used for storage and temporary staff offices while repairs are made to the back portion of the building. Once staff can pack and move out of the space, construction will begin.

• South Bannock Library District, Inkom Branch – Grant FACI 25-07
Funding in the amount of \$37,300 will be used to install storage cabinets throughout the library, increasing access to public and staff areas for programs and services.

The project was completed by the end of the reporting period, June 30, 2025, and will be available to the public after the library's grand opening, tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2025.

Wilder Public Library District – Grant FACI 25-08

The Wilder library will use \$5,000 to enhance public programming spaces by adding a microwave, storage cabinets, and 12 mobile chairs, along with installing an electrical outlet for the microwave. These improvements will support the kitchen area used for public library programs and events.

The library has selected a contractor for the microwave installation. Chairs and storage cabinets have also been selected. The library will wait until summer reading concludes in mid-July before ordering and assembling.

Addressing Critical Needs

The ICfL is addressing critical needs through the Facilities Improvement Grant subaward program. Applicants to the program were asked to demonstrate that there was a critical need in their community and that their projects would be addressing that need. The program application defined a critical need in the following way:

Communities with a critical need for the project include those that do not currently have access to the resources or services that would be provided by the proposed project, whether because of the physical absence or insufficiency within the community, or because access to the resources/services are not affordable, resulting in impediments to participation in work, education, and health monitoring.

The funded grant projects will improve access for people in Idaho. Libraries receiving the grant demonstrated through their applications that their communities had (1) needs brought about by, exacerbated by, or made apparent by the COVID pandemic and (2) a lack of resources in community related to work, education, health, or related services. They also described how their library facilities were not currently able to meet those critical needs due to facilities that are limited in size, scope, or functionality. Additionally, they successfully demonstrated that their proposed projects would help meet the stated needs of their communities.

While many projects are still currently underway, we anticipate positive outcomes for Idaho's communities when the new library facilities become available to the public. Completed grant projects are now serving over 36,000 people in rural Idaho communities. Libraries publicized their projects through a variety of means including ground breaking and grand opening ceremonies, sharing on their social media platforms, and local press coverage.

Labor

Multipurpose community facility projects in Idaho are following the U.S. Department of the Treasury's guidance by hiring local labor. Most of the projects are small enough in scale that

local labor and contractors are the most practical and cost-effective sources for completing projects.

The ICfL grant agreement signed by subrecipients included the following text communicating the U.S. Department of the Treasury's preferences for labor practices:

Strong Labor Practices in Construction - Guidance from US Department of the Treasury. It is important that investments in capital projects be carried out in ways that produce high quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Projects funded by the Capital Projects Fund must comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations, and with all requirements for state, local, and Tribal laws and ordinances to the extent that such requirements do not conflict with federal laws.

While the federal Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage rate requirements do not apply to projects funded solely by the Capital Projects Fund program, except for Capital Projects Fund-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of the Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that capital projects incorporate strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these practices in construction projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries. Treasury further encourages recipients to prioritize employers (including contractors and subcontractors) without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws as a further measure that may minimize project disruptions and delays.

Among other requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. 200, Appendix II, all contracts made by a subrecipient in excess of \$100,000 that involve employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with certain provisions of the Contract Work

Hours and Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. Part 5).

Further, the U.S. Department of the Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize in their procurement decisions employers who can demonstrate:

- Their workforce meets high safety and training standards, including professional certification, licensure and/or robust in-house training;
- Prioritization in hiring of local workers and/or workers from historically disadvantaged communities;
- Direct employment of their workforce, or policies and practices in place to ensure contractors and subcontractors meet high labor standards; and
- No recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws.

Community Engagement

The ICfL has regular contact with public library directors, boards, and staff and continuously monitor needs in the community. Additionally, library statistics are collected every year from Idaho's public and school libraries, giving a snapshot of the library landscape and the communities served across the state.

When the ICfL Facilities Improvement Grant application opened as part of this program, the initial requests totaled over \$16 million. With less than \$3.5 awarded in 2023 and just over \$175,000 awarded in 2025, there is still an unmet need within the state for increased and improved spaces and services.

Civil Rights Compliance

The ICfL complies with the legal requirements relating to nondiscrimination and nondiscriminatory use of federal funds. Subrecipients receiving Capital Projects Funds were required to agree that they were also in compliance with the civil rights laws listed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as part of the CPF program documentation.