Organization:	**Idaho Commission for Libraries**
Project Name:	**High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries**
Project Type:	**Public Computer Center**
State:	**Idaho**
Federal Award:	**$1,907,531**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The percentage of Idahoans utilizing state libraries is significantly higher than the national average, and the resources provided by Idaho's public libraries are critical to job seeking and economic development for the state's rural population. The **Idaho Commission for Libraries** proposes to increase connectivity and computing capacity in Idaho's 55 least-connected public libraries through a combination of enhancing broadband access and deploying new computers to meet increased demand. The High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries project proposes to nearly double the computing capacity in 40 percent of the state's public libraries and also plans connectivity enhancements to bring access speeds to an average of 6.2 Mbps across participating libraries. The project plans to leverage existing partnerships in each of the libraries to use the new capacity to offer educational, employment, and e-government services to economically vulnerable populations in the state, including Idaho's Hispanic population, Native Americans, English language learners, youth, and the unemployed.

The High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries project also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 230 new workstations and upgrade up to 125 more workstations while serving approximately 10,300 additional users per week.

- Train as many as 1,100 residents in basic computing with teacher-led training in each of the two years of the project.

- Make available education, workforce, and e-government resources to 28 percent of Idaho's population, including members of the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICL), which oversees the state libraries system, has administered over $32 million in federal grant funds since 1957. Currently, ICL provides public access computers as a regular part of library services to the residents of Idaho.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Apangea Learning
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- First Step
- Idaho Association of Counties
- Idaho Business Coalition for Education Excellence
- Idaho Department of Education
- Idaho Department of Labor
- Idaho Public Television
- Idaho Regional Optical Network
- Idaho Rural Partnership
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Idaho Community Colleges