

Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting & Learning Librarian

Date: April 16, 2020

Re: Recommendations for allocating available funds

The State Library has the following funds available to allocate and would like recommendations from the Network Advisory Council on how best to use these funds.

Funding Available

LSTA19/CARES Act - available	\$140,000
Potential MSL funds	\$150,000
Total possible funds	\$290,000

Notes about funding sources

- CARES Act spending principles
 - To prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19
 - To expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services
- Cares Act funds must be spent by September 30, 2021
- State funds must be committed by June 30, 2020 and can be accrued under a signed contract
- LSTA19/CARES Act funds are available for use. Potential MSL funds are not guaranteed at this time. We will need to discuss different scenarios during our meeting.

With the help of Montana librarians and through our weekly COVID-19 check-in meetings, we have identified the following needs. I am listing the range of costs here. You can find a breakdown of those numbers by reviewing the supporting documentation.

Mobile hotspots for circulation

- Goal 1: 2 hotspots per library. Total cost: \$54,978 - \$77,741
- Ideal: 1 hotspot per 1,000 people. Total cost: \$354,024 - \$480,146

Summer Reading online programming/tracking for 1 year

- Cost for 20 libraries that have expressed interest: \$5,995 - \$21,532
- Cost for 40 libraries: \$11,895 - \$29,757
- Statewide contract for 1 year: \$24,285 - \$45,306

Replacing old broadband/wifi routers for libraries that have routers older than 5 years or who are reporting unreliable service. 33 libraries have routers older than 5 years. 8 libraries report unreliable wifi. Quality replacement routers average \$250 per router.

- Total cost based on report from Gigabit Toolkit: \$10,000

Purchasing additional content for MontanaLibrary2Go. We could put unlimited dollars towards e-content, so we do not have a proposal at this time. The NAC could decide to put everything towards MontanaLibrary2Go or allocate a certain dollar amount.

- The following website shows MontanaLibrary2Go statistics during the closure of libraries: <http://about.msl.mt.gov/publications/statistics>