Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Cara Orban, Statewide Projects Librarian

Date: December 7, 2021

Re: **American Rescue Plan Act e-resources funding recommendation**

Staff request that the Commission adopt the Network Advisory Council's recommendation for the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars in the following way to procure e-resources. This recommendation was developed with input from Montana librarians and the E-resources Core Services Committee, it follows guidance from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the federal funding agency with oversight of these monies, and the recommendations meet the intent of House Bill 632, passed by the Montana Legislature to use ARPA dollars to procure E-learning digital content.

Spending options ranked from most to least favored by librarians:

1. **First spending priority:** Deposit one-time credits into shared accounts for current stateadministered e-content providers such as OverDrive and DPLA across platforms that serve different types of library audiences (publics, tribals, schools, academics, specials). Proposed allocation: 50% ($360,000)

E-Content Providers:

- MontanaLibrary2Go (publics, tribals, limited academics)
- MT Schools Shared Collection
- Digital Public Library of America (all libraries)

Options:

- Add remainder of public and tribal libraries to MontanaLibrary2Go if they agree
- Supplement shared MontanaLibrary2Go content budget
- Fund promotional materials and outreach for MontanaLibrary2Go
- Expand access to more schools
- Supplement shared school content budget
- Expand access to perpetual-access content through DPLA partners such as Biblioboard (see appendix)

2. **Second spending priority:** Initiate or extend one-year trials for resources embedded in current state-administered services (example: adding Universal Class or SAT test prep offerings via MontanaLibrary2Go), with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service. Although this was ranked as the second-highest priority, the funding suggestion is lower than the third priority because spending options are more limited. Proposed allocation: 10% ($72,000)

Options:

- OverDrive Magazines: $30,000 for renewal of simultaneous statewide access
- Universal Class online learning for patrons: $12,500 for statewide access via OverDrive
- Method test prep: $12,500 for statewide access via OverDrive
- READsquared: extend existing MSL contract to support summer reading: up to $6,000 for access for up to 20 libraries in Summer 2022 (see appendix)

3. **Third spending priority:** Offer one-year subscriptions to remote-access online resources or mobile applications that extend library services during the pandemic, with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service.

Proposed allocation: 20% ($144,000)

Categories ranked from most to least prioritized by librarians for one-year pilot subscriptions:

- Adult education (test prep, certification, professional development such as LinkedIn or Udemy or Universal Class)
- Practical how-to/lifelong learning
- Online newspapers
- Student support
- Early literacy
- General research databases
- Entertainment
- Remote-access genealogy
- Software licenses for remote work
- Professional resources such as ASTM standards

There are many options that would fall under this priority. We are asking the NAC to make recommendations on which categories to pursue for one-year subscriptions.

4. **Fourth spending priority:** Initiate one-year trials for new e-content service models, such as payper-circ like Hoopla or Kanopy, with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service.

Proposed allocation: 5% ($36,000)

5. **Fifth spending priority:** Invest in one-time purchase of standalone electronic resources that do not require an internet connection, such as Playaways or Wonderbooks. Proposed allocation: 5% ($36,000)

6. **Not surveyed but recommended by MSL staff:** Invest in professional development resources for all Montana library staff. Proposed allocation: 5% ($36,000)

Options:

- PCI Webinar Series, $2,000 (see appendix)
- LinkedIn Learning or similar for one-year subscription
- Supplement Montana State Library OverDrive professional development collection for librarians
- Disaster planning kits for every public and tribal library, to supplement online Moodle course (see appendix)
- Documents recovery kits for libraries, to supplement online Moodle course; one per federation (see appendix)

7. **Not surveyed but recommended by MSL staff:** Analytics software to improve existing resource sharing programs.

Proposed allocation: 5% ($36,000)

This funding would support a pilot to improve tracking and data analytics for the courier program, and to test software options for coordinating and analyzing centralized collection development.