

Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov



June 9, 2020

Alex J. Adams, Chairman
Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)
304 N 8th St, 3rd Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Chairman Adams,

I have reviewed the recommendations of the Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee, agree with and approve the funding recommendations as follows:

- \$1,967,680 to the Office of Information Technology Services to improve the state's firewalls, as described in Appendix A.
- \$16,200,000 to the Idaho Department of Corrections for the public safety initiatives described in Appendix B.
- \$5,000,000 to Idaho Housing and Finance Association for rental and utility assistance to those impacted by COVID-19, with two renewable increments based on need, as described in Appendix C. I will ask IHFA to cap the total amount that any individual may receive to ensure resources are appropriately targeted and used.
- \$50,000,000 to the Department of Commerce for broadband infrastructure to support distance education, remote work, and telehealth as described in Appendix D.

In my judgment, these are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and align with the U.S. Treasury guidance on allowable uses of funds.

Please work with the State Controller on carrying out these recommendations and reporting all expenditures to Transparent Idaho.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor

Appendix A

CFAC Firewall Subcommittee Lead: Jeff Weak

Please submit public comments by 5:00 p.m. MT, Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020, to:

- Jeff.Weak@its.idaho.gov
- CFAC@dfm.idaho.gov

1. Defining what we're purchasing for firewalls

What firewalls do:

- Purchasing two new firewalls that meet our capacity requirements and provide us the latest protection
 - (2) Palo Alto model 7050 firewalls to replace two (2) Palo Alto model 5260's.
- Frontline network security device protecting us from our connection to the public Internet, blocks malicious websites, prevents malware attacks, and prevent a whole range of other cyber-attacks. (It's the one piece of equipment that needs to be refreshed more often to keep up with latest threats)

Why new?

- The current firewalls are maxed with the number of external VPN connections due to COVID
 - The new boxes will meet current and anticipated future demands
- These firewalls are also being placed under far greater loads from agencies taking up more cloud services that are increasing at a very fast pace, includes cloud-based collaboration tools like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, soft phones, etc.
- Our current firewalls have been a major constraint in supporting the work from home order.
 - We fought through *several significant, and long-term network outages*. Streaming video services suffered badly as a result.

2. What is the cost for the firewall component specifically – both the one-time upfront costs and the ongoing costs the state would incur.

- Firewall hardware on-time costs: **\$1,062,740**
- Firewall security subscriptions for VPN, Threat Protection, Malware Protection, etc, for 3 years: **\$621,600 (to be renewed on year 4)**
- Firewall technical support for 3 years: **\$241,920 (to be renewed on year 4)**
- One-time professional services for installation: **\$41,420**
- **Total one-time: \$1,104,160**
- **Total 3-year cost: \$863,520**
- **Grand Total: \$1,967,680**

3. What happens if we don't make this investment and there's a second wave this fall that triggers significant state remote work.

- The reliability and sustainability of the state network will be at high risk of failure and/or incapable of handling the network load
 - We still have staff with compromised immune systems who will continue to telework for the foreseeable future. We need to meet these needs with reasonable accommodations
- There's still no vaccine for COVID. We could be facing a second wave later this year

- We absolutely must have the infrastructure in place to successfully support another work from home scenario...we can't have infrastructure failing in this situation
- Significant security risk without it
- Bottom line: these firewalls are a massive limiting factor for our network. They're on life-support now under the current load.

---- Additional----

Why firewalls are so important:

* On 31 Mar we were the target of a significant Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack. The attack knocked our network offline 2 times. At one point in time we had 500,000 network attempts per minute. With the help of our firewall vendor, we created a rule that minimized the effects of the attack. In an eight-hour period the following day, we were targeted 102,000,000 times.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Protect the public, our staff and those within our custody and supervision

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

JOSH TEWALT
Director

DATE: May 12, 2020
TO: Alex Adams, Administrator, DFM
FROM: Josh Tewalt
RE: CFAC Funding Consideration

The opportunity to submit this funding request for consideration by the Coronavirus Funding Advisory Committee (CFAC) is appreciated. This unprecedented public health crisis necessitated many changes to practices and policies for the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC). This funding request is in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will position the agency to provide for the health of our staff and the people under our jurisdiction while also increasing public safety. We have reviewed the guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury and believe this request is consistent with the guidance on allowable expenditures for reimbursement.

Background:

The IDOC is responsible for the care, custody and supervision of approximately 9,000 adults in custody and over 17,000 adults on felony supervision. COVID-19 poses a unique threat to our correctional facilities and the people in our custody. While Idaho’s 9 prisons and 4 community reentry centers have a safe operating capacity of 7,300 beds, over 4,000 of those beds are in an open dormitory, barracks-style setting. In addition to congregate housing that affords little opportunity to practice social distancing, approximately 12 percent of our population in custody is at higher risk of COVID-related complications because of their age and/or medical conditions. On top of physical plant limitations and population dynamics that increase risk, the delivery of recidivism reduction programs, education, meals and other activities often rely on frequent movement and shared space which can facilitate the rapid spread of contagions.

This request is separated into three areas critical to our ability to respond to this public health crisis:

IDOC Federal Funding Request	Cost
Critical Technology Infrastructure	\$5,100,000
Diversion, Decarceration & Timely Release	\$1,600,000
Public Safety Enhancements	\$9,500,000
Total	\$16,200,000

Critical Technology Infrastructure:

IDOC is limited by a lack of technological infrastructure at our prisons and worksites. The limited bandwidth and network capacity hamper our ability to facilitate video hearings with the courts and significantly impedes our ability to deliver programs, education, or other proven recidivism reduction measures remotely. This request for \$5,100,000 is targeted specifically at developing the infrastructure, hardware and software to allow important activities that affect due process, liberty and public safety to continue during the pandemic while minimizing direct contact and mitigating risk of exposure to COVID-19. All told, these investments will allow IDOC to reliably hold video court hearings from each facility and facilitate programming and recidivism reduction programs while maintaining social distance.

Critical Technology Infrastructure	Cost
Upgrade Infrastructure (Broadband)	\$525,000
Bandwidth Upgrades - all locations	\$750,000
Upgrade Network Hardware	\$1,000,000
Upgrade Facility Cabling	\$1,500,000
Microsoft Azure & Chronos Software	\$325,000
Expand Wireless Capacity	\$700,000
Secure Wireless Devices	\$300,000
Total	\$5,100,000

Diversion, Decarceration and Timely Release:

Decarceration is an effective strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19 in a congregate housing setting, but arbitrarily releasing people from custody can create risks to public safety. Instead of pursuing a policy of early releases, the IDOC and Commission on Pardons and Parole have turned to system efficiencies to remove delays in the release process for those deemed safe to return to our communities. This funding request is for critical system improvements to create efficiency in projecting anticipated bed needs, streamline and automate the inmate placement process, and automate the release readiness process. This request also includes digitizing central files for the people in custody and provides for the ability to remotely sign sensitive documents to minimize in person contact and potential exposure to COVID-19. These enhancements will minimize movement in our system, expedite parole readiness and release activities, and minimize release delays.

Diversion, Decarceration and Timely Release	Cost
Placement, Movement, Release Planning Automation	\$1,000,000
DocuSign Software	\$100,000
Electronic C-Files	\$500,000
Total	\$1,600,000

Public Safety Enhancements:

The safety of our communities is better safeguarded when the people released from our custody are able to find success and not commit crime. Developing efficiencies in the release process increases workload for community supervision staff at a time when access to critical resources in our communities is limited. For FY 21, the Governor and Legislature saw fit to fund a measure – Connection & Intervention Stations (CIS’s) – aimed at providing additional accountability and support services to people at the highest risk to recidivate. \$4,500,000 in this request would increase CIS capacity to account for a significant increase to the number of people on felony supervision. Increased CIS capacity also provides a meaningful alternative to incarceration that will positively reduce new commitments to our custody.

\$500,000 is earmarked for contracted substance use testing to increase our ability to measure compliance with conditions of supervision.

In addition to accountability measures, access to transitional housing is significant barrier to the timely release of people from custody and housing insecurity is a proven precursor to crime. This request includes \$4,500,000 to provide additional transitional assistance during the public health crisis.

Public Safety Enhancements	Cost
Connection & Intervention Stations - Increase Capacity	\$4,500,000
Transitional Services Funding (ttf)	\$4,500,000
Contracted Substance Use Testing	\$500,000
Total	\$9,500,000

Conclusion:

We are determined to emerge from this this public health crisis better positioned to increase public safety in Idaho. These funding requests enable the IDOC to respond to the immediate public health threat while also positioning the department to improve outcomes for the people in our custody and under our supervision while reducing crime in Idaho’s communities.

Appendix C

TO: COVID-19 Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

FROM: Melissa Wintrow, State Representative
Shawn Keough, State Board of Education
John Evans, Mayor of Garden City
Steve Bair, State Senator

DATE: June 4, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID19 Rental & Utility Assistance Recommendation

Members of CFAC,

The Rental & Utility Assistance Subcommittee met on June 4, 2020, to review public comments and recommendations to allocate Federal CRF dollars to the IHFA's Housing Preservation Program to assist Idahoans who lack sufficient income or resources to pay housing/utility costs. Several community members were on the line as well.

Based on the last month's work researching and reviewing questions and public comment, **we recommend authorizing IHFA to administer CRF for emergency rental assistance.**

To date we have received 8 letters all supporting the program, with one letter that dealt more with philosophic differences than with needs, logistic, requirements. We addressed questions that Josh Whitworth posed from the Controller's Office to ensure that we are meeting the Governor's requirements to be judicious with spending and to ensure transparency and accountability.

The comments/questions we reviewed addressed the following: federal requirements for reporting, language translation of documents, transparency in reporting information to Transparent Idaho, time period allowed for relief, and ensuring that we do not expend funds past the federal deadline of December 30. The subcommittee agreed they received adequate information/responses to all the questions posed, which are in the subcommittee meeting minutes with these two recommendations:

- The program would have an initial cap at three months of assistance with the ability to re-apply if a significant need persisted in an extenuating circumstance. There would be an overall cap of no more than six months for any one applicant.
- For the purposes of transparency, Transparent Idaho would publish on its website the name of the entity receiving the relief dollars (landlord/utility company), the dollar amount, and the county of the applicant.

The subcommittee recommends that CFAC authorize \$15 million to IHFA's *Housing Preservation Program* with the stipulation that funds are accessed in \$5 million increments. For ease of administration, each capitalization of the fund will be made in full (e.g., full \$5 million to IHFA at a time). The next \$5 million will be authorized once the previous \$5 million's balance is below \$250,000, and unspent funds will be returned or not accessible (increments that hadn't been accessed yet). The committee may consider additional authorizations if continued need/demand is evident.

Housing Preservation Program

Eligibility

- ✓ Citizenship: At least one household member must be a U.S. Citizen or a person legally able to reside in the U.S. (e.g., Visa, "green", or Permanent Resident card).
- AND**
- ✓ Residency: The household must currently reside within the state of Idaho.
- AND**
- ✓ Housing Status: The household must be at risk of homelessness due to a COVID-19 related circumstance, to be defined as any circumstance that can reasonably be considered to be caused by the health, financial, or economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (including, but not limited to, domestic violence, loss of job, reduction of salary or work hours, inability to return to work or secure a new job, care for the health of a family member, and inability to secure childcare). The circumstance must have occurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.
- AND**
- ✓ Income: The households must have an annual income below 80% of area median income.

Documentation Required

- ✓ Driver's license or state-issued picture ID (proof of identity and residency)
- ✓ Proof of income, or lack thereof
- ✓ Landlord notice of intent to terminate or delinquency notice, or notice of utility shut-off or intent to discontinue service
- ✓ Lease agreement

Eligible Costs

- ✓ Short-term rent and utility assistance
- ✓ Security (including first or last month's rent) and utility deposits for victims of domestic violence
- ✓ Lot rent and utilities for mobile homes

Ineligible Circumstances

- ✓ Persons who are imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or State Law
- ✓ Persons living in subsidized housing or using a Housing Choice Voucher or equivalent, as well as expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program pursuant to the CARES Act (e.g., Emergency Solutions Grant, Community Development Block Grant, federal unemployment contributions, etc.).
- ✓ Persons who are renting from a relative, unless allowed through reasonable accommodation
- ✓ Persons with an ownership interest in the rental property

Amount of Assistance

Each household may receive a maximum of 6 months of rental assistance (including monthly utility costs) with an initial cap of 3 months. Requests may be renewed on a monthly basis so as to evaluate continued need for assistance and prioritize each month's requests based on need.

IHFA has the capability of investigating whether applicants have received assistance from other public housing authorities, federally-assisted properties, or support programs federally-funded by the CARES Act.

Payments

Payments will be made directly from IHFA to the landlord or utility company.

Given the expedient nature of the need for assistance to avoid eviction proceedings, the volume or requests, the amount of funding to be dedicated to this program, and IHFA's non-profit status, the Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee should allow for a full up-front award directly to IHFA, who is a sophisticated financial institution capable of accounting for funds in a detailed and segregated manner.

Administration

Program criteria may be changed based on demonstrated need, but will always remain for the purpose of assisting households with a COVID-19 related circumstance. Administrative fees of 5% may be claimed by the administering authority to cover direct and indirect operating expenses.

All program applications, household documentation, correspondence with applicants, and accounting records will be securely held by IHFA for no less than three years following the full expenditure of funds from any single funding source.

Reporting

IHFA will make available, upon request, the following data points: total applications received; applications denied, approved and in process; total assistance paid by category (rent, utilities, or both); total persons assisted; and number of applications denied, approved and in process by region or county.

Access

- ✓ Phone: 1-855-452-0801
- ✓ Online: <https://www.idahohousing.com/covid-19/>



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Recommendation for CFAC by Broadband Subcommittee

Preface

This CFAC Broadband initiative is strategic and urgent. It meets the CARES Act criteria and it will help Idaho rebound across the State with funded projects, local jobs, and purposeful outcomes such as distance learning, telehealth, public safety, commerce and overall well-being. Public comments from the private sector, associations and communities over the past week were helpful in shaping our initiative. Every community has an opportunity to apply for grants for the potential of upgrading a portion of its telecommunications and to mitigate their challenges of a pandemic.

Recommendation of Subcommittee to CFAC:

Allocate up to \$50 million (4% of total CRF Award) for Broadband (FCC definition of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload) projects across Idaho that are eligible under the CARES Act.

Who is Eligible for Grants?

Cities, tribes, and ports with eligible Broadband projects could apply for grants that meets the CARES Act criteria.

State departments and agencies and regional public safety, nonprofit healthcare and network organizations with qualified Broadband projects are eligible for grants.

Residential and commercial projects that do not overbuild existing Broadband service, i.e. where less than 50% of households or occupied offices in the project area have access to Broadband service. Broadband service to be provide by private sector companies and not awardees.

Applications for rural communities of smaller than 5,000 will be processed on a priority basis.

Every project must be paid for and completed on or before Dec. 30, 2020.

HOW TO APPLY.

The Idaho Commerce will handle the initial request for Broadband project and funding applications following state guidelines.

Grant criteria and eligibility for awards will be determined by the Idaho Department of Commerce.

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING VENDORS FOR PROJECTS AFTER GRANT AWARDED?

Each city, municipality, tribe, port, or State entity. Applicants will be required to follow state or local government/procurement guidelines in order to be open, competitive, fair, and transparent. Awards will be on Transparent Idaho website.