



Governor Brad Little

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

September 15, 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:

- \$99,272,500 to be distributed by the State Department of Education to public schools, as described in Appendix A.
- \$50,000,000 to the State Board of Education for the “Strong Families, Strong Students” Initiative as described in Appendix B.
- \$69,052 to the City of Boise to reimburse the Boise Police Department costs associated with the public safety payroll costs associated with the extraordinary session of the 2020 Idaho legislature. These costs were for a substantially different use than previously budgeted, given the special session focused on COVID-19 related issues, as described in Appendix C and 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 black ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", written over a white background.

Brad Little
Governor



State of Idaho
Division of Financial Management
Executive Office of the Governor

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

ALEX J. ADAMS
Director

To: Alex Adams, Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee
From: Gideon Tolman
Date: September 11, 2020
Subject: Public Schools Reopening Funding Request

The Department of the Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund guidance was updated September 2 with a provision that allows funding to be used for expenses associated with the safe reopening of schools. It states that "expenses of up to \$500 per elementary and secondary school student to be eligible expenditures, such that schools do not need to document the specific use of funds up to that amount."

This request is to allocate \$99,272,500 of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to Idaho's k-12 public schools. This is the amount by which the Fiscal Year 2021 Public Schools budget was reduced through the 5% Governor's holdback and subsequent Board of Examiners action. It equates to approximately \$315 per student. This will ensure schools have the resources they need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate safe reopening.

**CFAC Request from the Office of the Governor
“Strong Families, Strong Students” Initiative**

Request:

The Office of the Governor is requesting \$50 million in funding for grants to Idaho families to cover critical educational expenses due to school building closures caused by COVID-19 and to provide economic support to parents so they do not have to exit the work force to ensure their children receive a quality educational experience. The grant program would be managed by the Office of the State Board of Education.

Goals:

- Provide support to eligible families to facilitate distance learning in connection with school building closures including devices, connectivity, and eligible educational services.
- Provide resources to Idaho parents to help with their students be successful in school so that they can remain in the labor force.

Background:

Since March, when the pandemic hit Idaho, the Board has been discussing the challenges in meeting Idaho’s responsibility to provide a uniform and thorough system of public education during these unprecedented times. Families are facing many challenges as they are forced to rapidly adapt to changing circumstances in their children’s education. In addition to providing the resources to school districts and charter schools to be able to serve students, the Board has discussed providing resources directly to families and students to mitigate the achievement gap and address the digital divide.

It has been documented how school-related closures have created pressure that may push parents out of the labor force,^{1,2} which could further strain the state’s unemployment insurance trust fund solvency and have adverse impact on the state’s economic rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing resources to these families can help mitigate potential second-order effects of the emergency.

Should CFAC grant the request, the funding would be used to provide access to resources that can be used for educational purposes that are directly controlled by the eligible families. Each eligible family would have access to **\$1,500 per eligible student**, with a maximum award of **\$3,500 per family**. The Board will contract with a fulfillment company with expertise in delivering similar programs for educators and families.

Family Eligibility Criteria:

Student eligibility will include, at a minimum, students who meet the state definition of school age and may include, but not limited to, public school and private school students. Eligibility criteria will conform to Treasury guidance and will include families impacted by a COVID-19-related full or partial

¹<https://apnews.com/ad57cb9e16746df766215301163a4f08>

² <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/06/lack-of-school-and-child-care-may-push-some-parents-out-of-workforce.html>

school closure, or a disruption to a parent's employment between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. The State Board may set additional eligibility criteria that identifies families that have had the highest impact from COVID-19.

Eligible Expenses:

Once families are determined to be eligible, an account will be created for families to purchase eligible educational materials, devices and services.

This program's eligible expenses are limited to expenses that facilitate distance learning as a result of school building closures, including but not limited to:

- (a) computer hardware, software, and other devices, including adaptive learning technology;
- (b) internet connectivity;
- (c) instructional materials;
- (d) fees for courses;
- (e) tutoring services;
- (f) education services and therapies.

Application Process:

The grant program is open to all eligible families regardless of income level. Because there may be more applications than available grants, the Board will establish priority criteria. The Board will work with a fulfillment company to create a web-based application, and the fulfillment company will prioritize applications based on established criteria. Prioritization will consider income guidelines for free and reduced-price meals program, and adjusted gross income. The fulfillment company could manage income verification to mitigate fraud.

- Wave 1 - AGI less than or equal to \$50,000
- Wave 2 - AGI less than or equal to \$75,000
- Wave 3 - AGI less than or equal to \$100,000
- Wave 4 – All Idaho Families

Appendix C

Alex J. Adams

From: Kathy Griesmyer <kgriesmyer@cityofboise.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Alex J. Adams
Subject: Fw: Staffing Costs for Special Legislative Session
Attachments: Capitol Protest REG Time 8-24 to 8-26.xlsx; Capitol Protest OT 8-24 to 8-26.xlsx

Hi Alex -

See below and attached for our BPD expenses from the special session. What will be the timeline for CFAC reviewing and hopefully approving the expenses?

If you need anything else from me, please let me know.

Thanks,

Kathy



Kathy Griesmyer
Pronouns: she, her, hers

Director of Government Affairs
Office of the Mayor
Office: (208) 972-8522
Cell: (208) 890-3800
kgriesmyer@cityofboise.org

Making Boise the most livable city in the country.

From: Alison Tate <atate@cityofboise.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Kathy Griesmyer <kgriesmyer@cityofboise.org>
Subject: Staffing Costs for Special Legislative Session

Kathy,

Total personnel costs for the event: On-duty (\$49,523) + Overtime (\$19,529.43) = \$69,052.43

Boise Police Department - OT Hours/Costs related to Capitol Protests (8/24/20 - 8/26/20)

Date	Overtime Hours	Total Overtime Cost (Wages & Benefits)	Number of Officers
8/24/2020	156.75	11,082	27
8/25/2020	91.5	5,632	27
8/26/2020	40.5	2,815	7

Grand Total	288.75	\$	19,529.43	54
--------------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	-----------

Regular (on-duty) time: \$49.523 – back-up attached.

Let me know if you have questions.

AT



Alison Tate
Operations Support Commander
Boise Police Department
Office: (208) 570-6195
atate@cityofboise.org

Making Boise the most livable city in the country.

Appendix D



Home / News / Best States / Idaho News

Idaho Wraps up Chaotic Special Session; Bundy Arrested Again

The Idaho Legislature has wrapped up a chaotic, three-day special session by passing coronavirus-related legislation while anti-government activist Ammon Bundy was arrested for the second day in a row at the Statehouse.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content Aug. 26, 2020



Anti-government activist Ammon Bundy is wheeled from the Idaho Statehouse in Boise, Idaho, on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020, following his second arrest for trespassing in two days. Bundy was arrested Tuesday in a committee room and charged with trespassing. (AP Photo/Keith Ridler) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press

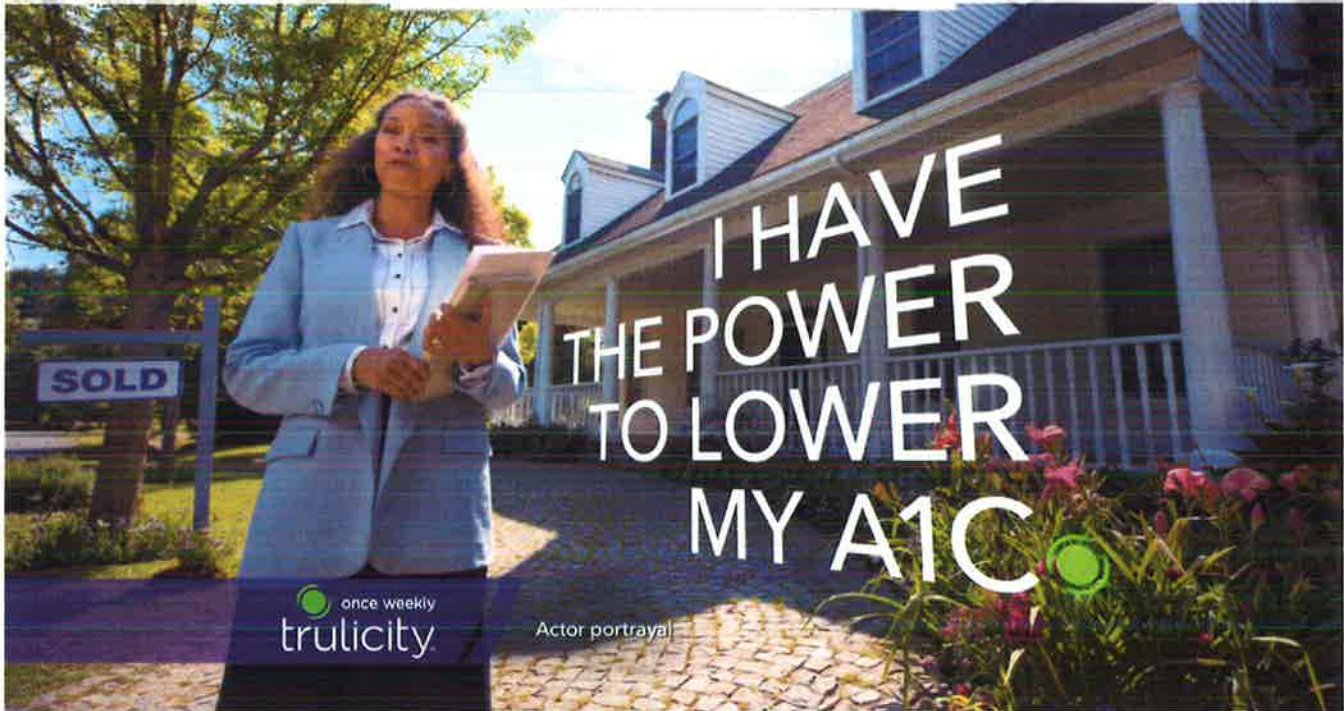
BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The Idaho Legislature on Wednesday wrapped up a chaotic, three-day special session by passing coronavirus-related legislation while anti-government activist Ammon Bundy was arrested for the second day in a row at the Statehouse.

Recommended Videos



Powered by AnyClip

Ad: (: 00)



Lawmakers on the last day of the session called by Republican Gov. Brad Little approved legislation intended to smooth the counting of what is expected to be a surge of absentee ballots for the November election.

Lawmakers in both the House and Senate also approved and sent to the governor legislation intended to shield businesses, schools and government entities from lawsuits if someone catches COVID-19.

"I think this bill is important for Idaho's economy to get back on track," said Republican Rep. Caroline Troy.

The bill overcame some late trouble when the attorney general's office issued an opinion saying the bill's language was so broad it could negate a current Idaho law and allow price gouging by

businesses during a declared emergency.

The legislation also carried a sunset clause rendering it null on July 1.

"This is an important piece of legislation, particularly for our schools," Republican Sen. Dean Mortimer, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, said in urging the bill's passage.

Lawmakers earlier in the special session passed legislation suspending elections limited to mail-in ballots only. Little and Republican Secretary of State Lawrence Denney made the May 19 primary an election with absentee ballots and no in-person voting due to the coronavirus. But some lawmakers felt Little and Denney went too far.

Another bill specifically cited by Little in calling the part-time Legislature back into session failed. It involved creating voting centers to allow greater opportunity for in-person voting for the November general election amid the pandemic. Election officials say they're facing a shortage of poll workers fearful of working during the pandemic.

But the House passed a resolution urging Little to use some of the federal coronavirus rescue money to pay poll workers more.

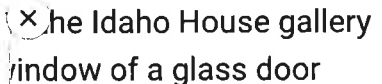
The Senate passed a resolution expressing its desire to end Little's emergency declaration made in March as the virus entered the state. Little initially issued a stay-at-home order, but that expired at the end of April, and most businesses are now allowed to open.

Idaho saw an increase in infections as businesses opened. Johns Hopkins University reports that Idaho through Tuesday had nearly 31,000 infections and 336 deaths.

The House also passed what's called a concurrent resolution aimed at ending Little's declared emergency. But the Senate rejected it as being outside the scope of the special session, and therefore unconstitutional.

Both chambers are expected to pursue more substantive legislation when they meet again in January to reduce the authority of the governor during declared emergencies.

The liability-shield law went through multiple iterations and was the target of Bundy and his supporters.

On Monday, angry protesters that had limited seating became shattering as protesters jostled with police. There were no arrests. The Idaho House gallery window of a glass door

On Tuesday, more than 100 protesters shouted down and forced from the room lawmakers on a committee considering the liability-shield bill. Bundy was arrested for trespassing when he wouldn't leave the room. Two others were arrested at the same time for the same reason.

Bundy returned to the Statehouse on Wednesday despite a year-long ban after the trespassing arrest. Idaho State Police quickly arrested him a second time and removed him from the Senate gallery. Protests calmed following the arrests, which coincided with a much larger police presence in the Statehouse.

The 44-year-old Bundy led the 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon as a show of support for state rights, planning to dissolve the federally-managed refuge. He and others were ultimately arrested, ending the 41-day occupation. But he was acquitted of all federal charges by an Oregon jury.

The Idaho liability legislation he viewed as an unnecessary intrusion by the state caused by a hoax pandemic. Bundy is a supporter of Black Lives Matter, and he supports defunding police to limit what he said has become a police state.

Gov. Little has given no indication that he would veto the legislation heading for his desk.