



Illinois Heartland Library System

MEMO TO: Finance Committee
FROM: Leslie M. Bednar
DATE: September 11, 2020
RE: IHLS Grants to Member Libraries – Delivery Vehicle Grant

This is the first of two information-only updates we are pleased to share with appropriate subcommittees and the board. As state government and our member communities continue to search for answers to extend public services during the COVID-19 pandemic, our agency has looked for avenues to extend resource sharing. No action is requested of the committee.

Background

Early last month our Operations Director Susan Palmer fielded a member question regarding wi-fi hotspots for students. After the conversation Susan drafted a grant proposal to make our surplus delivery vehicles available to member libraries. She was envisioning hotspots placed in a van that is driven to various community locations for access at different points in the day. Our now refined and broadened grant will provide a well-maintained delivery vehicle to a member public library for use supporting a *new and innovative resource sharing service* that expands the reach of the library further into the community.

In-kind Contribution

This is a pilot project for FY2021 designed to help meet some of the many needs made obvious by the pandemic. The vehicles were declared surplus and available for sale at the April 28, 2020 board meeting (75 ILCS 10/16). The Illinois State Library has indicated they are not interested in the vehicles. In previous years IHLS has made these vehicles for sale via a member, and then a public online auction process. We did not budget for the revenue of these particular vehicles in the FY2021 budget.

Number of available surplus vehicles: 5

Estimated value per vehicle: \$3,000.00 (based on historical average of IHLS online auctions) to \$4,500.00 (Enterprise Leasing's estimate in their Spring 2020 proposal)

Total possible in-kind contribution: \$15,000.00 to \$22,500.00

Moving Forward

Evaluation of the FY2021 grant will provide direction moving forward. If we determine to continue the project, the grant will have a FY2022 budgetary impact.

Part of the Enterprise vehicle leasing program is resale of our older/gently used vehicles. Enterprise handles the promotion and all aspects of the sale. The proceeds are folded into our lease agreement, reducing our monthly lease payment. However, with no older delivery vehicles to sell there is no reduction in our lease payment.

Thank you for your thoughtful feedback regarding this opportunity. We hope members find it an impactful tool in their resource sharing programs. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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