



THRIVING WORKFORCE, THRIVING COMMUNITIES WITH LIBRARIES

Providing Opportunity Across Idaho and the Nation

As technology further shifts the economic landscape, libraries prepare American jobseekers to enter the workforce, reskill to meet evolving requirements, and succeed as business owners.

Public libraries in Idaho and nearly 17,000 strong across the country: (1) help people secure employment through job search, resume writing, and interview training, (2) provide internet access and digital skills programs that encourage use of emerging technologies and empower entrepreneurship, (3) collaborate with other community stakeholders to identify workforce challenges and build vibrant local economies.

With many communities hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and facing economic challenges, libraries are a critical part of the economic safety net, now more than ever.

Digital skills building for success
The Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck, Idaho works to support youth as they start their adult lives and careers. The library's Adulting 101 program covers the basics of adulthood that are often not taught in school and frequently glossed over in the home such as job hunting and resume building, time management, budgeting,

insurance, and so on. The program, while aimed at the 16–21-year-old range, has been popular among older community members as well. One mother who participated benefited greatly from the budgeting class. Something clicked for her during the presentation and mock budget exercise and she commented that she felt empowered to take control of her finances for

TAKEAWAYS for local, state, and national public officials, and potential partners

- Libraries in Idaho and nationally support jobseekers, entrepreneurs, and local businesses.
- Libraries are well-placed to offer digital skills training and economic empowerment programs to all Americans, including those with few alternatives or resources.
- Libraries are cost-effective and efficient partners that should be included in the development and implementation of workforce and economic development initiatives.

the first time in nearly two decades.

The library also partners with Journey's Developmental Disability Services to give youth interns and volunteers real-life work experience to help them iden-

