



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Homer Public Library

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## Memorandum 21-196

TO: Homer City Council

THROUGH: Robert Dumouchel, City Manager

FROM: David Berry, Library Director

DATE: November 2, 2021

SUBJECT: ARPA Grants to Library

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I am pleased to report that Homer Public Library (HPL) has been awarded two grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS is a federal government agency that supports libraries nationwide. In this case, the funding for the two grants ultimately comes from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

The two grants are as follows:

- The ARPA Easy Grant provides \$2,500 for purchasing library materials and \$3,450 for purchasing and installing little libraries at Mariner Park, the Fishing Hole, Karen Hornaday Park, Bishop's Beach and WKFL Park.
- The ARPA Project Grant provides \$19,141 to upgrade the wi-fi equipment at the library building and purchase 10 wireless hotspots for checkout. It also funds a one-year data plan for each hotspot.

The little libraries project is a collaboration between HPL and the City Parks Department. Each library is an all-weather cabinet with a couple of bookshelves inside. Library staff will provide donations to refill the libraries as needed, while parks personnel will handle stocking the cabinets and packing them up for the winter (at least at the campground locations). This project expands on the existing little library outside the HPL building.

The wi-fi improvements replace aging equipment and upgrade the existing 802.11ac network to the 802.11ax standard, which provides higher bandwidth, tighter security and the ability to accommodate more simultaneous users.

COVID demonstrated the importance of providing internet access to patrons without a home connection. Following the lead of the Anchorage Public Library, HPL will purchase ten wireless hotspots and a one-year data plan for them. The hotspots will be available for checkout and can be used with the library's existing laptops.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an ordinance accepting the ARPA funds.