



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Everett Public Library receives IMLS CARES Act grant to provide access to wireless devices for job seekers

EVERETT, WA – Everett Public Library has been awarded a competitive Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) CARES Act grant to support job seekers in the Everett community. Everett Public Library will receive a grant of \$42,714 to support the creation of a Technology to Go collection to make laptops and internet hotspots available to individuals with job seeking, career development, and education needs.

Everett Public Library is one of 68 organizations nationwide to receive this grant, from a total of 1,701 applicants nation-wide. It is one of only two organizations in Washington state to receive the IMLS CARES Act Grant funding. The goal of the [IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries program](#) is to support museums and libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Through their digital resources, Everett Public Library has helped our residents keep reading, learning, and connecting during these difficult times,” said City of Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin. “We’re grateful for this grant, which will allow our library to expand community access to technology resources for job searches, small business development, government services, and education in response to pandemic-related unemployment.”

Everett and Snohomish County recorded unemployment figures well above the national average due to the pandemic. Everett Public Library has responded by [creating online classes and expanding access to digital resources](#) for individuals with job and career needs. Everett Public Library will use the IMLS grant funds to purchase and circulate 20 Chromebooks and 20 wireless hotspots to be used primarily by these individuals. Everett Public Library staff will continue to offer instruction and resources to support ongoing education needs. This grant will be further bolstered by funding from the Washington State Library and the Friends of the Everett Public Library to create a Technology to Go collection of 60 computers and 60 hotspots in total.

“Now more than ever it is important that people have access to the digital tools and resources necessary to find jobs and training for new careers, so they can take care of themselves and their families during this pandemic—and I’m pleased the Everett Public Library is planning to put this vital federal funding to good use,” said U.S. Senator Murray, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As a [WorkSource](#) partner, Everett Public Library is committed to help fulfill the employment needs of the community. Everett Public Library will continue to partner with WorkSource to get devices into the hands of those who need it most.

“Everett Public Library is a vital community resource and as Certified WorkSource Connection site a critical link to training and employment services in Snohomish County,” said WorkForce Snohomish CEO Joy Emory. “We applaud their initiative to secure the technological means to provide access to information, resources and support for our county residents during these uncertain times.”

Everett Public Library staff are collaborating closely with City of Everett Information Technology experts to develop the Technology to Go collection and prepare it for check-out by Everett Public Library cardholders using the Library’s [curbside services](#). The Technology to Go collection will be made available to the community later this fall.

For more information about library programs and services, visit [www.epls.org](http://www.epls.org) or call 425-257-8000.

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