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## Hailey Public Library Receives National Grant

### *'Your Library Listens'* Conversations Launched

(Hailey, Idaho) – The Hailey Public Library has been selected as one of 300 libraries nationwide to participate in *Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries*, an American Library Association initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities.

The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library host community conversations to learn more about the needs and aspirations of Hailey's Hispanic residents as well as support follow up actions based on what HPL staff learns.

"We are so proud to be chosen for the amazing opportunity," said Library Director Lyn Drewien. "This grant will fund HPL's 'Your Library Listens!' initiative, allowing the library to strengthen its relationship with our Hispanic neighbors and help build a more sustainable community. HPL's recently formed Hispanic advisory group will be part of the planning team."

As part of the grant, staff will take an online course to learn how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Project Director and HPL Programs manager Kristin Fletcher commented, "Hailey's richly diverse population is over 30% Hispanic but only a fraction uses the library's services. We're approaching these conversations in a spirit of listening and exploration, hoping to learn what barriers may exist, and appreciate the support this grant offers."

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