

# Use of Funds to Address COVID19 Challenges

What we did; what we  
hope to achieve; what  
we have seen so far;  
and what we have  
learned

# 4 Projects

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- Montana Library 2 Go – increased the collection budget for downloadable content
  - Project amount: \$96,573 General Fund
- Gigabit Toolkit – purchase updated wifi routers for public libraries in the most need
  - Project amount: \$10,000 CARES Act
- Mobile hotspots – purchase one year’s worth of data and deploy hotspots to public libraries
  - Project amount: \$188,692 currently committed to June 2021, from General Fund, LSTA, and GEER funds
- READSquared – purchase online reading app
  - Project amount: \$25,980 General Fund

# Breakdown of Expenditures for each project

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>LSTA19</b>	<b>Project Total</b>
Montana Library 2 Go	96,573		96,573
READsquared	25,980		25,980
Mobile hotspots	13,456	9,555.79	23,012
<b>Total COVID19 Expenditures</b>			<b>\$145,565</b>



# Gigabit Toolkit Updates

- Desired outcomes
  - Reduce users' wait time for item holds
  - Increase the digital content offerings

- Desired outcomes
  - Help those libraries with the oldest network/wifi routers update their equipment
  - Increase Internet speeds for library users



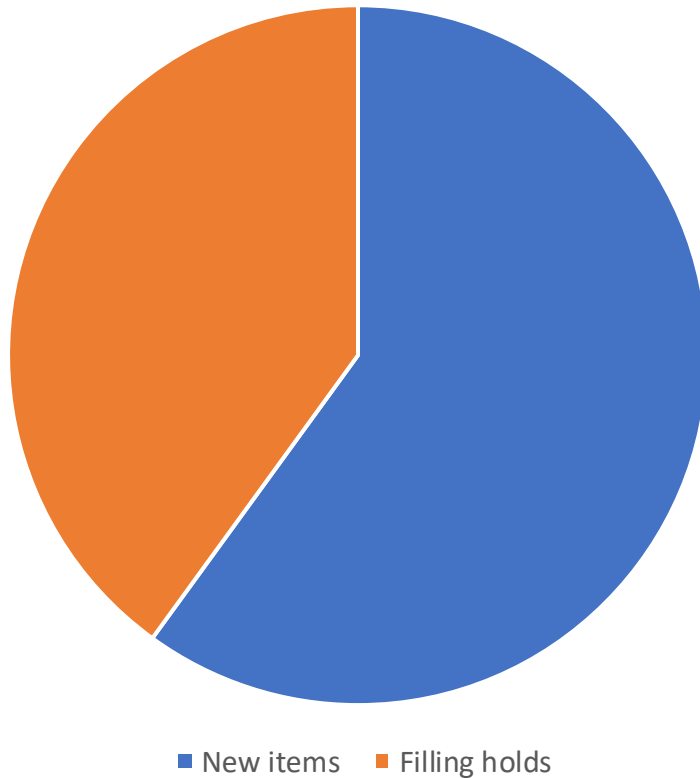
- Desired outcomes
  - Increase internet access for community members

## READsquared

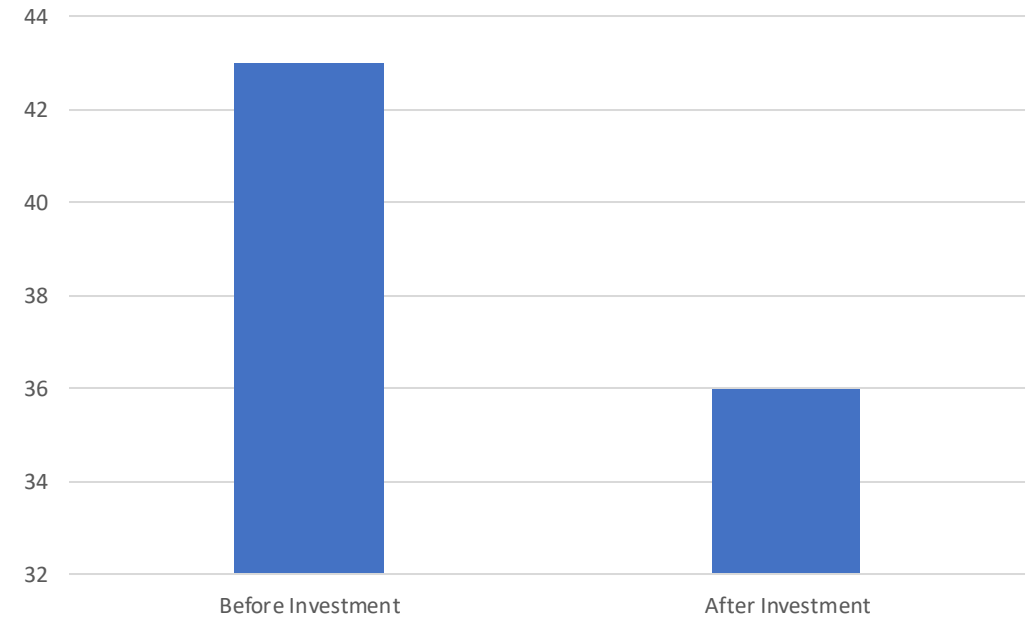
- Desired outcomes
  - Give library patrons access to an online tracking app for library reading programs
  - Help libraries provide new online/digital library services

# Some stats and stories – MontanaLibrary2Go

Content for Montana Library2Go



Impact of Investment on Wait Times



“The selection is better than it ever has been.” -Library patron

# Some stats and stories – Mobile Hotspots



- Number of hotspots deployed
  - 375 hotspots
  - 63 libraries (mostly public) are participating
  - Usage stats more than doubled from June to July

# Some stats and stories - READsquared

- "We have had a very positive response to the virtual summer reading program. Parents find it much easier to keep track of their children's reading time and having missions and escape rooms have really kept the kids engaged. I was a bit skeptical about a virtual summer program, but it seems to be working out well. We are thinking about doing the 1,000 books before kindergarten using this program. A big thanks to both Amelea and the State Library for helping us get through these unusual times!"
- -Librarian's response



# What we have learned....

- MontanaLibrary2Go
  - Regular assessment helps us determine how to best serve our users
  - As behavior changes, libraries may wish to look at their collection development budgets holistically
  - As services change, there will be a need to communicate the value of these remote or nontraditional services to stakeholders
- Gigabit Toolkit
  - Improving Internet access is very individual and local to the library

# What we have learned (cont)....

- Mobile hotspots
  - There is a need for device lending
  - We have identified how to streamline the process to make it more efficient and effective
  - Libraries need more help with implementation
- READsquared
  - Providing more time/support next summer will help with customization and usage
  - Encouraging 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten participation
  - Brainstorming more ways to reach out to community members and get people to try the program