

U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries

The American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") [Capital Projects Funds](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund) provides \$10 billion for payments to eligible governments to carry out critical capital projects in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund>

Grant Opportunity: Department of Libraries Capital Project Fund

The State of Vermont has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Treasury to grant **\$16.4 million** of our state's Capital Project funds toward capital improvements to **Vermont's public libraries**. These funds are intended to address critical building improvements to ensure Vermonters have continued access to high-speed Internet to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring at their local public libraries.

Eligible Projects

Projects that make public libraries more accessible to Americans with disabilities, improve ventilation and filtration of air, or address structural issues that threaten the integrity of the building could all be eligible for this funding.

Timeline

The Department of Libraries will launch a competitive grant process through which Vermont communities can access both sets of federal funding to support capital improvements to their local public library.

Our goal is support communities in successfully accessing both the federal ARPA funds and Congressionally Directed Spending funds for which their public library is eligible. We aim to have one application process for both grant opportunities.

Upon finalizing the grant application materials and process, the Department of Libraries will share the application process and timeline via a webinar for public library staff and trustees.

We anticipate collecting Needs Assessments from libraries with capital project needs in February 2023, followed by an application process in Spring 2023.

We anticipate grant awards may be made as early as spring 2023 so that projects can begin as early as summer 2023.

Building projects must be completed by December 31, 2026.

Get Ready!

Prepare to apply for these transformative grants by reviewing the capital project-related webinars hosted recently by the Department of Libraries.

Visit <https://libraries.vermont.gov/recordedworkshops> to watch these Department of Libraries webinars related to building projects:

- Library Renovations: Grant Opportunities, Historic Buildings, Project Planning
- The Americans with Disabilities Act: What Libraries Need to Know
- Grant Writing for Librarians
- Library Safety and Security
- Disaster Planning for Vermont Libraries: Beginning Workshop
- Disaster Planning for Vermont Libraries: Intermediate Workshop
- Strategic Planning Series with Alliance Research
- ALA webinar on upcoming grant for improving accessibility in small, rural libraries
- Attracting ARPA and Other Municipal Support to Libraries
- How to Champion Your Library to Select Boards and Beyond

Explore Renovation and Construction Resources

These resources compiled by our team at the Department of Libraries can help you jumpstart your community's library construction project planning:

https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/public_libraries/new_librarians/building_construction

Questions? Contact the Department of Libraries with questions about this grant opportunity or to be added to our email groups for library staff or trustees.

lib.contact@vermont.gov

Note: The U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries grant funding is separate from the \$10 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants which provide resources to address repair and mitigation needs in small, rural public libraries that also serve as community meeting spaces and public facilities, with a focus on economically depressed areas. The Department of Libraries will issue one grant application for both grant opportunities. Visit the Department's Capital Projects Grant website for more information <https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants>.