

## Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants Funding for Libraries

On December 23, 2022, The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, an omnibus spending bill consisting of all 12 fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills.

The bill contains more than \$212 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) included by Sen. Leahy, for 38 projects across Vermont. The bill was approved by House and Senate and signed by President Biden.

The Vermont Department of Libraries is poised to receive \$10 million of those funds for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants to be available for capital improvement projects in our state's small, rural public libraries.

### Grant Opportunity: Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants

The goal of these funds is to 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.

### Eligible Projects

Small, rural public libraries in Vermont are the focus of the Public Facilities Preservation Initiative grants. Projects that are vital to the functioning of the library, including those that address ADA, HVAC, the building envelope (roof, foundation, walls, windows, etc.), and new construction will all be considered.

### 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 supporting 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.

### **Get Ready!**

If you haven't already, you should start working on advancing your capital project. The more pieces you have in place by the time the application opens, the better. Prepare to apply for these transformative grants by reviewing the capital project-related resources VTLIB has assembled for you:

### **Capital Project Related Webinars**

<https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/webinars>

- 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

### **Print Construction Resources**

[https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/print\\_resources](https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/print_resources)

### **Online Construction Resources**

[https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/online\\_resources](https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/online_resources)

**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](mailto:lib.contact@vermont.gov).

**Note:** The Public Facilities Preservation Initiative grant funding is separate from the \$16.4 million in funding in U.S. Treasury Capital Project Funds for capital improvements to Vermont's public libraries. Those funds will 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 and are not limited to small and rural libraries. The Department of Libraries is awaiting approval of our grant program from the U.S. Treasury, which we hope to receive this winter. Visit the Department's Capital Projects Grant website for more information

<https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants>.