

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 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. The State's proposal to grant \$16.4 million in Capital Project funds toward capital improvements to Vermont's public libraries has been approved. This program will be administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

Current Status

The Department plans to launch a competitive grant application for these funds after the grant application and rubric documents are approved by Treasury. We anticipate the application will launch in December 2023/January 2024.

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

All ARPA Capital Projects Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026, which is the end of the period of performance.

Timing and Process of Grant Opportunities

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

Our goal is to support Vermont communities in successfully accessing both the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries and Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants funds for which their public library is eligible.

The Department recommends that every public library apply for all grant funding for which it is eligible. That said, these will be competitive grants. The available funding will enable some public libraries to complete capital projects. However, the funding will not

fully meet the significant need for capital projects funding in all of Vermont's 188 public libraries. The Department anticipates making awards to at least one public library in each of Vermont's 14 counties.

Earlier in 2023, the Department communicated a plan to have one application process for both grant opportunities. However, due to the compressed timeline of the U.S. Treasury ARPA funds and the complexity of the HUD funding regulations, the Department has decided that there will be two separate competitive grant applications. The Department will make every effort to align the two applications as much as possible to simplify the application process for public libraries.

If your capital project fits within the parameters of *both* the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries and Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants, then the Department recommends that you apply for both grant opportunities.

Get Ready!

If you haven't already, you should start working on advancing your capital project. The further along your library is with planning and raising funds for your capital project by the time the applications open, the better.

Prepare to apply for these transformative grants by reviewing the capital project- related resources the Department has assembled:

- [Capital Project Related Webinars](#)
- [Print Construction Resources](#)
- [Online Construction Resources](#)

Questions?

Please direct any questions to LIB.VTLIBCapitalGrants@vermont.gov.

Stay Informed!

Communications about the Capital Projects Grants will be shared with Vermont's public library community via our three main listservs: lib.staff, lib.trustee, and VTLibraries. The Department of Libraries has also created a new listserv dedicated to capital projects updates: lib.capitalgrants@list.vermont.gov . To join this listserv, please [complete this form](#).