

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Vermont Department of Libraries Awards ARPA Treasury Funding to 14 Public Libraries**

(Barre, Vt.) - Today the Vermont Department of Libraries announced the recipients of \$15.9 million dollars in competitive grant monies to 14 public libraries in Vermont with funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

These one-time, substantial grants will address critical building improvements that ensure Vermonters in these communities have continued access to high-speed internet for the purposes of work, education, and health monitoring at their local public libraries.

The COVID-19 health emergency highlighted the critical importance of high-speed internet access to Vermonters, as so many aspects of everyday life—including going to school, working remotely, and attending medical appointments—moved online.

In this context, the crucial role public libraries play by providing internet access became even more apparent. Vermonters without home access to the internet were impacted by the pandemic more than those who had access. These state ARPA funds will help ensure continued internet access at public libraries in need of critical building repairs and improvements.

“The Department of Libraries is excited about this opportunity to support communities around the state by administering the first federal capital funding for Vermont public libraries in 20 years,” said State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Catherine Delneo. “A needs assessment conducted by the Department in 2023 reflected a high need for maintenance, repairs, and modernization in public library buildings, many of which are more than 100 years old. Libraries serve as community hubs and this money supports these crucial facilities and the Vermonters that will depend on them well into the future.”

“Over the years, technology has become a part of our daily lives. We rely on the internet for things like school, work, medical appointments and more,” said Governor Phil Scott. “These grants will help Vermonters get connected at libraries across the state.”

These funds were distributed through a highly competitive grant process open to all public libraries in Vermont. Funds were distributed to public libraries in 11 counties and to libraries located in small villages to larger towns.

## **U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries Grant Recipients**

**Library:** Alice M. Ward Memorial Library

**City:** Canaan

**County:** Essex

**Award:** \$900,000

**Project:** Interior renovations for ADA compliance and improved patron centered useability; new HVAC system, new windows

**Library:** Arvin A. Brown Public Library

**City:** Richford

**County:** Franklin

**Award:** \$174,502

**Project:** Renovations to increase useable library space, new HVAC system, electrical system updates, new windows, and interior renovations for ADA compliance

**Library:** Bennington Free Library

**City:** Bennington

**County:** Bennington

**Award:** \$1,500,000

**Project:** Building envelope repairs with new windows and insulation, new HVAC system with electrical system updates

**Library:** Brandon Free Public Library Inc.

**City:** Brandon

**County:** Rutland

**Award:** \$1,406,936

**Project:** Installation of four-story elevator with renovations and improvements for ADA compliance, repair or replace windows for energy efficiency

**Library:** Brooks Memorial Library

**City:** Brattleboro

**County:** Windham

**Award:** \$1,472,501

**Project:** Asbestos abatement and building envelope repairs with interior and exterior renovations for ADA compliance

**Library:** Grand Isle Free Library

**City:** Grand Isle

**County:** Grand Isle

**Award:** \$1,500,000

**Project:** New library building construction

**Library:** Groton Free Public Library

**City:** Groton

**County:** Caledonia

**Award:** \$522,043

**Project:** Building expansion and envelope repairs with renovations for ADA compliance, new HVAC system

**Library:** Jeudevine Memorial Library

**City:** Hardwick

**County:** Caledonia

**Award:** \$725,000

**Project:** Library expansion with two-story addition, four ADA compliant bathrooms, HVAC plumbing and electrical updates

**Library:** Johnson Public Library

**City:** Johnson

**County:** Lamoille

**Award:** \$1,500,000

**Project:** Relocate building away from flood zone with new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Construct an addition to existing building. Renovations to egresses for ADA compliance

**Library:** Lawrence Memorial Library

**City:** Bristol

**County:** Addison

**Award:** \$483,000

**Project:** New HVAC system, building envelope repairs for structural integrity, electrical and mechanical system updates

**Library:** Leach Public Library

**City:** Irasburg

**County:** Orleans

**Award:** \$1,082,750

**Project:** Library expansion with two-story addition, new elevator, ADA compliant bathroom, and new HVAC system

**Library:** Middletown Springs Public Library

**City:** Middletown Springs

**County:** Rutland

**Award:** \$1,293,384

**Project:** Renovate and upgrade library building infrastructure at new library site

**Library:** Salisbury Free Public Library

**City:** Salisbury

**County:** Addison

**Award:** \$978,807

**Project:** Repair or replace HVAC system, new plumbing system, potable water, interior and exterior renovations for ADA compliance

**Library:** Wilder Memorial Library

**City:** Weston

**County:** Windsor

**Award:** \$650,000

**Project:** Building expansion and envelope repairs, new HVAC and plumbing systems, electrical system updates, and new ADA compliant bathroom

For a detailed information on the grant, please visit the Department's [grant page](#).

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*The Vermont Department of Libraries is housed within the Vermont Agency of Administration and supports Vermont libraries as they work to ensure access to quality information for their patrons. To learn more, please visit [libraries.vermont.gov](http://libraries.vermont.gov).*