



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

March 14, 2023

Senator Sandy Pappas
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2113
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Library Construction Grants

Dear Senator Pappas,

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), we are writing to thank you for your strong support and advocacy for public libraries. In particular, we would like to thank you for your support of the Library Construction Grant program. As you are aware, public library buildings are a vital part of a community's social infrastructure. Currently, a need for over \$90M in renovation and construction projects has been identified across the state. MLA is requesting \$20M in capital investment funding with a \$2M cap to assist with these projects. Your support of bonding dollars for construction and remodeling of public library buildings through the State's authorized matching program is essential in ensuring that all Minnesotans have access to safe, accessible, and welcoming library spaces.

Since 1995, over 150 library projects have benefitted from the Library Construction Grant program. Grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$1M allowed for the renovation of current spaces, provided ADA accessibility, and completed new construction projects. Recent projects include:

- The expansion of the Fergus Falls Public Library, which received \$1M in grant funds of the \$8M total project costs. This expansion resulted in advanced technology access for the community, enhanced areas for youth, and improved community meeting rooms and gathering spaces.
- In 2019, the community of Kimball was awarded just under \$500K for a new library which replaced an outdated, century-old location. With only 800 square feet, the previous location lacked space for high demand collections and public computer stations, and most importantly - accessibility. Thanks to the construction grant and the more than 250 individuals, businesses, and organizations who raised the funds for the matching grant, the new 4,000 square foot building provides the necessary services - including a community room available to the public beyond library open hours- to better serve the community for decades to come.

Because the need is great, and because investing in library infrastructure means investing in Minnesota's communities, MLA strongly urges the House Capital Investment Division to provide funding at the highest level of support.

Sincerely,

Julia Carlis
Julia Carlis
MLA President
Senior Library Manager,
Washington County Library

Sarah Hawkins
Sarah Hawkins
Legislative Co Chair, MLA
Library Collections Manager
Anoka County Library

Liz Lynch
Liz Lynch
Legislative Co Chair, MLA
Executive Director
Lake Agassiz Regional Library

Laurie Ortega
Laurie Ortega
Chair, CRPLSA
Executive Director,
Pioneerland Library System

Enclosure: Public Library Capital Needs Identified by the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators (CRPLSA), January 2023



MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Public Library Capital Needs Identified by the Council of Regional Public Library Systems (CRPLSA) for 2023

Region	Library Name	City	Estimated Cost	Potential State Share	Description
GRRL	Paynesville Public Library	Paynesville	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	Renovation/Construction
GRRL	Cold Spring Public Library	Cold Spring	\$600,000	\$300,000	Renovation
GRRL	Sinclair Lewis Library	Sauk Centre	\$82,000	\$41,000	Update windows
LARL	Crookston Public Library	Crookston	\$300,000	\$150,000	Renovation/Construction
LARL	Detroit Lakes Public Library	Detroit Lakes	\$300,000	\$150,000	Roof repair/Replacement
LARL	Moorhead Public Library	Moorhead	\$31,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Ramsey County Maplewood Library	Maplewood	\$3,700,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Roseville	Roseville	\$3,400,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Washington County Park Grove Library	Cottage Grove	\$7,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Hennepin County Sumner Library	Minneapolis	\$6,320,000	\$1,000,000	Refurbish/Renovation
MELSA	Dakota County South St. Paul Library	South St. Paul	\$8,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Belle Plaine Library (Scott County)	Belle Plaine	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Hayden Heights Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$5,806,700	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Riverview Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$3,468,500	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Hamline-Midway Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$8,169,300	\$1,000,000	Renovation/Construction
PCLS	Redwood Falls Public Library	Redwood Falls	\$2,800,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation/Construction
TdS	Dykman Free Library	Sleepy Eye	\$300,000	\$150,000	Roof and exterior repairs
TdS	Janesville Public Library	Janesville	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,500	Renovation/Construction
TdS	New Ulm Public Library	new Ulm	\$40,000	\$20,000	Doors & accessible entrance
TdS	Muir Library	Winnebago	\$110,000	\$55,000	Renovation
TdS	Watonwan County Library-Buterfield branch	Butterfield	\$16,000	\$8,000	Accessibility
TdS	Blue Earth County Library-Mankato branch	Mankato	\$300,000	\$100,000	Renovation
		Total	\$89,212,500	\$14,724,500	
Additional Projects:					
ALS	Coleraine Public Library: Elevator for accessibility in a Carnegie building.				
ALS	Duluth Public Library: Major remodel under discussion.				
ALS	Eveleth Public Library: New windows and roof.				
ALS	Gilbert Public Library: Repair to accessibility ramp and new stairs into the building.				
ALS	Hibbing Public Library: Restrooms in need of remodeling.				
KRLS	Cass Lake Community Library - ADA compliant entryway and restrooms				
PCLS	Pipestone Community Library: new building or remodel				
PCLS	Tyler Public Library: New roof				
PCLS	Nobles County Public Library: Remodel				
SELCO	Van Horn (Pine Island) Public Library : new building or major remodel/addition				
SELCO	Spring Valley Public Library: Repair to Exterior Insulation Finishing system on building, replace carpeting, rewiring rooftop HVAC units				
SELCO	Stewartville Public Library: Addition to current library building				
TdS	Springfield Public Library: replace carpet in 2028				
TdS	Sibley County Library System-Winthrop branch: expansion/renovation				
VLS	New York Mills Public Library: New roof, windows, doors, insulation, and siding. Possible expansion.				
VLS	Pelican Rapids Public Library: Small addition and entry remodel				
VLS	Douglas County Library: Remodel and expansion, or new build.				

Updated 12/15/2022