



MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

February 16, 2024

Senator Sandra Pappas
Chair, Senate Capital Investment Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota State Bldg., Room 2113
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Library Construction Grants

Chair Pappas and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), thank you for your strong support and advocacy for public libraries. In particular, 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 of over \$193M in renovation and construction projects has been identified across the state. In 2024, MLA is requesting \$20M in capital investment funding with a \$2M cap to assist with these projects. Your support of bonding dollars for the 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 spaces for education and enrichment.

Since 1995, over 150 library projects have benefited 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. Recently:

- By expanding a large meeting room and adding an outdoor space for performances, the Dakota County Library was able to boost the social and educational infrastructure of the Hastings community, made possible by a \$300,000 library construction grant for the Pleasant Hill Library in 2019.
- In 2021, a library construction grant of \$729,102 was awarded to the City of Howard Lake enabling the construction of a new, 7,000-square-foot library facility. Scheduled to open at the end of 2024, the new building will replace the current two-story facility located a few blocks away, which has been in use since 1979, lacking handicap accessibility and dealing with continued issues with water intrusion. The new building is a net-zero facility which will generate energy on-site using clean renewable resources in a quantity equal to or greater than the total amount of energy consumed.



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- The Mahanomen Public Library saw an increase in overall use following a \$28,750 construction grant awarded to the City of Mahanomen in 2022. The funding provided repairs to the roof and gutter system, replacement of stained ceiling tiles and 50 year-old windows, and the installation of energy efficient lighting. The repairs brought the charming 1937 WPA building back to life and offers community members a greater opportunity for enrichment, entertainment and community gathering.

Because the need is so great, and because investing in library infrastructure results in investment in Minnesota's communities, MLA strongly urges the Senate Capital Investment Committee to provide funding at the highest level of support.

Sincerely,

Jodi Grebinoski
MLA President
Library Director
Virginia Public Library

Sarah Hawkins
MLA Legislative Co-Chair
Deputy Director
Anoka County Library

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

Elizabeth Hoffman
Chair, CRPLSA
Director
Plum Creek Library System



Public Library Capital Needs Identified by the Council of Regional Public Library Systems (CRPLSA) for 2024

Region	Library Name	City	Estimated Cost	Potential State Share	Description
ALS	Coleraine Public Library	Coleraine	\$350,000	\$175,000	Accessibility
ALS	Duluth Public Library	Duluth	\$72,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
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
KRLS	Dale and Harriet Jones Walker Public Library	Walker	\$3,200,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
LARL	Crookston Public Library	Crookston	\$500,000	\$250,000	Renovation/Construction
LARL	Detroit Lakes Public Library	Detroit Lakes	\$800,000	\$400,00	Renovation/Construction
LARL	Moorhead Public Library	Moorhead	\$31,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Anoka County Library, St. Francis	St. Francis	\$500,000	\$250,000	Renovation
MELSA	Anoka County Library, Crooked Lake	Coon Rapids	\$500,000	\$250,000	Renovation/Accessibility
MELSA	Carver County Library, Chaska	Chaska	\$19,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Washington County Library, R.H Stafford	Woodbury	\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Library, Roseville	Roseville	\$3,400,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Washington County Library, Park Grove	Cottage Grove	\$12,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Scott County Library, Belle Plaine	Belle Plaine	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Hayden Heights	Saint Paul	\$5,806,700	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Riverview	Saint Paul	\$3,700,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Hamline-Midway	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
PCLS	Tyler Public Library	Tyler	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
SELCO	Albert Lea Public Library	Albert Lea	\$477,062	\$238,531	Renovation
SELCO	Lake City Public Library	Lake City	\$66,500	\$33,250	Renovation

SELCO	Owatonna Public Library	Owatonna	\$350,000	\$175,000	Renovation
SELCO	Spring Valley Public Library	Spring Valley	\$30,000	\$15,000	Renovation
SELCO	Stewartville Public Library	Stewartville	\$2,550,000	\$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	\$1,000,000	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	Watonswan County Library-Butterfield branch	Butterfield	\$16,000	\$8,000	Accessibility
TdS	Blue Earth County Library-Mankato branch	Mankato	\$300,000	\$150,000	Renovation
		Total	\$194,647,562	\$16,185,781	
Additional Projects:					
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	Lamberton Public Library				
PCLS	Nobles County Public Library: Remodel				
PLS	Clara City Public Library: New Constructino				
SELCO	Van Horn (Pine Island) Public Library : new building or major remodel/addition				
SELCO	Buckham (Faribault) Memorial Library: renovation due to addition of space from current community center				
SELCO	La Crescent Public Library: new 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.				
Submitted by Liz Lynch, MLA Legislative Co-Chair, lynchl@larl.org			1.31.24		