



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

March 12, 2026

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

RE: Support for Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants

Chair Pappas and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators (CRPLSA), thank you for your strong support of Minnesota's public libraries, especially the Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants. Public library buildings are essential community infrastructure, and more than \$219 million in renovation and construction needs have been identified statewide.

For 2026, MLA requests \$10 million in capital investment funding for the program, with a \$2 million cap per grant, along with a policy change allowing matching funds from any non-state source rather than only local sources. Your support for the State's matching program is critical to ensuring that all Minnesotans have safe, accessible, and welcoming library spaces.

Since 1995, more than 150 projects have benefited from grants of \$3,000 to \$1 million, supporting renovations, ADA improvements, and new construction. Recent examples include:

- A \$300,000 grant in 2019 that expanded meeting and outdoor performance space at Dakota County's Pleasant Hill Library.
- A \$729,102 grant in 2021 that enabled construction of Howard Lake's new 7,000-square-foot, net-zero library facility, replacing an inaccessible and deteriorating 1979 building.
- A \$28,750 grant in 2022 that revitalized the Mahnommen Public Library through repairs, window replacement, and energy-efficient lighting, boosting community use of the historic 1937 WPA building.

Because the need is so great, and because library infrastructure strengthens communities, MLA strongly urges the Senate Capital Investment Committee to provide funding at the highest level of support.

Sincerely,

Liza Shaflo
MLA President
Branch Librarian
East Central Regional Library

Sarah Hawkins
MLA Legislative Chair
Assistant Director
Anoka County Library

Stacey Lunsford
Chair, CRPLSA
Executive Director
Traverse des Sioux Library System



**MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION**

Public Library Capital Needs Identified by the Council of Regional Public Library Systems (CRPLSA) for 2026

Region	Library Name	City	Estimated Cost	Potential State Share	Description
ALS	Chisholm Public Library	Chisholm	\$478,000	\$230,000	Accessibility/Renovation
ALS	Coleraine Public Library	Coleraine	\$415,000	\$207,500	Accessibility
ALS	Duluth Public Library	Duluth	\$72,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
ALS	Grand Marais Public Library	Grand Marais	\$84,000	\$42,000	Renovation
ALS	Mountain Iron Public Library	Mountain Iron	\$69,960	\$34,980	Accessibility
ALS	Two Harbors Public Library	Two Harbors	\$56,000	\$28,000	Renovation
ALS	Virginia Public Library	Virginia	\$75,000	\$37,500	Renovation
ECRL	Mora Public Library	Mora	\$11,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
GRRL	Paynesville Public Library	Paynesville	\$2,500,000	\$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	Brainerd Public Library	Brainerd	\$200,000	\$100,000	expansion to the south
KRLS	Blackduck Public Library	Blackduck	\$1,400,000	\$700,000	Renovation/Accessibility
LARL	Crookston Public Library	Crookston	\$500,000	\$250,000	Renovation/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	Washington County Library, R.H. Stafford	Woodbury	\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Library, Mounds View	Mounds View	\$4,500,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Library, Roseville	Roseville	\$15,000,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Washington County Library, Park	Cottage Grove	\$12,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

	Grove				
MELSA	Scott County Library, Belle Plaine	Belle Plaine	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Hayden Heights	Saint Paul	\$6,900,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Riverview	Saint Paul	\$7,700,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Saint Paul Public Library, Hamline-Midway	Saint Paul	\$10,600,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Dakota County Library - Wentworth	West St. Paul	\$7,400,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
SELCO	Albert Lea Public Library	Albert Lea	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
SELCO	Hokah Public Library	Hokah	\$80,000	\$40,000	Renovation
SELCO	Lake City Public Library	Lake City	\$66,500	\$33,250	Renovation - new windows
SELCO	Owatonna Public Library	Owatonna	\$500,000	\$250,000	Renovation
SELCO	Stewartville Public Library	Stewartville	\$2,550,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation/Construction
SELCO	Winona Public Library	Winona	\$350,000	\$175,000	Renovation/addition
SELCO	Caledonia Public Library	Caledonia	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
SELCO	Northfield Public Library	Northfield	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
SELCO	Red Wing Public Library	Red Wing	\$100,000	\$50,000	Renovation
SELCO	Rochester Public Library	Rochester	\$2,723,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
SELCO	Rochester Public Library	Rochester	\$15,223,900	\$1,000,000	Renovation mid to long-term
SELCO	Spring Valley Public Library	Spring Valley	\$293,720	\$146,860	Renovation
TdS	Blue Earth Community Library	Blue Earth	\$10,000	\$5,000	Accessible entrance
TdS	Watsonwan County Library-Butterfield branch	Butterfield	\$16,000	\$8,000	Accessibility
TdS	Winthrop Public Library	Winthrop	\$270,000	\$135,000	Expansion/Renovation
VLS	Douglas County Library	Alexandria	\$17,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
		Total	\$219,765,080	\$21,334,090	