

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 has 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.

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

The Department launched a Needs Assessment form on February 28, 2023. The goal of the Needs Assessment is to gather information from municipal and incorporated public libraries in Vermont about their needs for capital improvements, what stage they are at in planning those projects, and what funding gaps they have identified. It will be open for public libraries to complete through March 31, 2023, and participation is highly encouraged for any libraries with anticipated construction needs.

The Application for grant funds will launch following the completion of the Needs Assessment later this year. The Department of Libraries will launch one competitive grant process through which Vermont communities can access both sets of federal funding to support capital improvements to their local public library.

All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026, which is the end of the period of performance.

Get Ready!

Prepare to apply for these transformative grants by reviewing the capital project-related webinars hosted recently by the Department of Libraries. Visit <https://libraries.vermont.gov/recordedworkshops> to watch these Department of Libraries webinars related to building projects:

- Capital Project Funds & Needs Assessment Webinar
- Library Renovations: Grant Opportunities, Historic Buildings, Project Planning
- The Americans with Disabilities Act: What Libraries Need to Know
- Grant Writing for Librarians
- Library Safety and Security
- Disaster Planning for Vermont Libraries: Beginning Workshop
- Disaster Planning for Vermont Libraries: Intermediate Workshop
- Strategic Planning Series with Alliance Research
- ALA webinar on upcoming grant for improving accessibility in small, rural libraries
- Attracting ARPA and Other Municipal Support to Libraries
- How to Champion Your Library to Select Boards and Beyond

Explore Renovation and Construction Resources

These resources compiled by our team at the Department of Libraries can help you jumpstart your community's library construction project planning:

Print Construction Resources

https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/print_resources

Online Construction Resources

https://libraries.vermont.gov/capitalprojectsgrants/online_resources

Questions? Contact the Department of Libraries with questions or concerns about this grant opportunity at lib.contact@vermont.gov. Please join our new listserv group to receive messages dedicated to capital project updates by [completing this form](#).

Note: The U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries grant funding is separate from the \$10 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants. Those CDS grants provide resources to address repair and mitigation needs in small, rural public libraries that also serve as community meeting spaces and public facilities, with a focus on economically depressed areas. The Department of Libraries will issue one grant application for both grant opportunities. Visit the Department's Capital Projects Grant website for more information <https://libraries.vermont.gov/upcoming-capital-project-grant-funding-opportunities>.