

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2020	2022	2024
Library Construction Grants	1	GO	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## Library Construction Grants

**AT A GLANCE****2020 Request Amount:** \$2,000**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** \$2 million in state bond funds for the Library Construction grant program will be granted to public library jurisdictions under Minnesota Statutes Section 134.45. Funds are distributed statewide through a competitive process and provide for new construction or remodeling of public libraries to improve access to library services for people with disabilities.**Project Description**

Library Construction grants require a one-to-one non-state match and are awarded in amounts up to \$200,000 for library accessibility projects and up to \$1 million for new construction or remodeling that include accessibility.

Library Construction Grants leverage state bond funds with local dollars for renovation, construction and improvement projects that result in more accessible public library buildings. In addition to ensuring that public library buildings meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, library construction grants result in more sustainable and energy efficient public library facilities and improve library services. Grants are awarded in consultation with the Minnesota State Council on Disabilities. Projects may:

- Remove architectural barriers from a library building or site
- Remediate conditions hazardous to health or safety
- Renovate or expand an existing building for use as a library
- Construct a new library

Depending on grant size, five to seven projects receive funding. Since 1994, 151 projects in 63 counties have been supported. Through 2018, the local dollar to state dollar ratio is \$7.72 local to \$1.00 state.

Eligible applicants are regional public library systems, regional library districts, cities and counties operating public libraries that meet the statutory definition of a public library in Minnesota Statutes 134.001.

**Project Rationale**

Library Construction grants ensure that the public library buildings are updated to reflect energy efficient building standards and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. Public libraries have limited resources for building and construction projects, and the state's contribution through the grant program assures all residents have equitable access to public library services. The state's support is often the impetus that local and/or private funders need to spur involvement.

Demand for Library Construction Grants is persistent with \$3 million available between 2012 and

2019, State Library Services received grant requests totaling \$5.344 million. Informal conversations with cities, counties and libraries across the state have identified approximately 20 library improvement projects with a total cost of well over \$60 million that could benefit from Library Construction Grants. Through 2016, cities and counties have matched each dollar invested by the state with a local contribution of \$7.72. The program has impacted 61 counties.

### **Project Timeline**

A competitive grant round is opened approximately three months after the bonding bill passes. Grants are awarded within about nine months, and all projects are completed within five years. As needed, additional grant rounds are offered to distribute all funds. Typically, all funds are committed within 18 months of the passage of the bonding bill.

### **Other Considerations**

In many communities across the state, older library buildings are nearing the end of their lifespan and in need of improvements that address energy efficiency and sustainability in addition to accessibility. Public libraries are highly valued community assets, and the Library Construction grant program signals the state's support for up-to-date, energy efficient and accessible buildings that are open to all.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This request has an impact on the Department of Education's operating budget. The project is supported by .10 FTE of an existing staff member who administers the grant application, award and reporting processes.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

2018 \$1.0 million

2017 \$2.0 million

2014 \$2.0 million (\$877,000 earmarked for specific projects; \$1,123,000 available for competitive grants)

2012 \$1.0 million

2008 \$1.5 million

2006 \$1.0 million

2005 \$1.0 million

2003 \$1.0 million

2000 \$1.0 million

1998 \$1.5 million

1996 \$1.0 million

1994 \$1.0 million

### **Project Contact Person**

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