

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2022	2024	2026
Library Construction Grants	1	GO	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

Library Construction Grants

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount:	\$3,000
Priority Ranking:	1
Project Summary:	\$3 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, extend the useful life of library buildings, and remodel 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 \$300,000 for library accessibility projects and up to \$1 million for new construction, repair work or remodeling.

Library Construction Grants leverage state bond funds with local dollars for renovation, construction and improvement projects that extend the useful life of library buildings while resulting 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 fourteen projects receive funding. Since 1994, 170 projects in 67 counties have been supported. Through 2021, the local dollar to state dollar ratio is \$6.27 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 \$3.951 million available between 2018 and 2021, State Library Services received grant requests totaling \$5.49 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.

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, safe 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

2021 \$2.951 million

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

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