

Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants Funding for Libraries

The Vermont Department of Libraries' \$10M for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants to be available for the state's small, rural public libraries is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through their FY2023 Economic Initiative Community Project Funding program. This funding was made possible by the support of Senator Leahy, who included the Department's proposal in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. This program will be administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

The competitive grant application for these funds will be open to all rural and small public libraries in Vermont with the exception of public libraries that received specific, individual earmarks for support through the Congressionally Directed Spending process.

Goal

The goal of these funds is to 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.

Eligible Projects

Small, rural public libraries in Vermont are the focus of the Public Facilities Preservation Initiative grants. Projects that are vital to the functioning of the library, including those that address ADA, HVAC, the building envelope (roof, foundation, walls, windows, etc.), and new construction will all be considered.

Current Status

The Department has received the grant award letter and preliminary guidance documents from HUD. The Department plans to launch a grant application for these funds in 2024.

Timeline

HUD has established August 31, 2031, as the end date of the period of performance and budget period for all FY2023 CPF grants.

Timing and Process of Grant Opportunities

The Department of Libraries will launch two competitive grant processes through which Vermont communities can access federal funding to support capital improvements to their local public library.

Our goal is to support Vermont communities in successfully accessing both the **U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries** and **Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants funds** for which their public library is eligible.

The Department recommends that every public library apply for all grant funding for which it is eligible. That said, these will be competitive grants. The available funding will enable some public libraries to complete capital projects. However, the funding does not

fully meet the significant need for capital projects funding in all of Vermont's 188 public libraries. The Department anticipates making awards to at least one public library in each of Vermont's 14 counties.

Earlier in 2023, the Department communicated a plan to have one application process for both grant opportunities. However, due to the compressed timeline of the U.S. Treasury ARPA funds and the complexity of the HUD funding regulations, the Department has decided that there will be two separate competitive grant applications. The Department will make every effort to align the two applications as much as possible to simplify the application process for public libraries.

If your capital project fits within the parameters of *both* the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries and Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants, then the Department recommends that you apply for both grant opportunities.

Get Ready!

If you haven't already, you should start working on advancing your capital project. The further along your library is with planning and raising funds for your capital project by the time the applications open, the better.

Prepare to apply for these transformative grants by reviewing the capital project-related resources the Department has assembled:

- [Capital Project Related Webinars](#)
- [Print Construction Resources](#)
- [Online Construction Resources](#)

Questions?

Please direct any questions to LIB.VTLIBCapitalGrants@vermont.gov