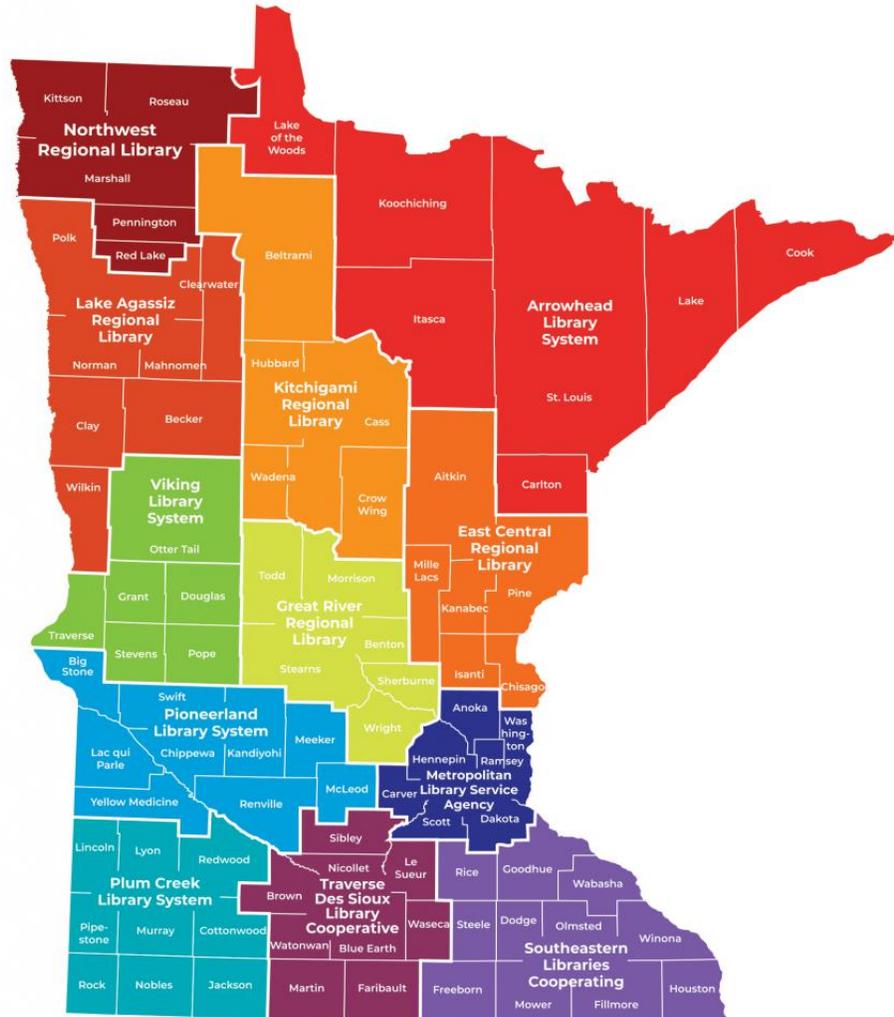




Governor's Capital Budget Recommendation Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants

Bobbie Burnham | Assistant Commissioner

Minnesota's Public Libraries



- 12 regional public library systems with 358 public library locations
- 10 bookmobiles
- At least 1 public library in every county
- 2024 usage:
 - 17.5 million visits to libraries in 2024 – that’s more than nine times the attendance at the MN State Fair in 2024
 - 53 million items borrowed
 - Over 175,000 community meetings and public events took place in Minnesota Public Libraries in 2024

Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grant Program

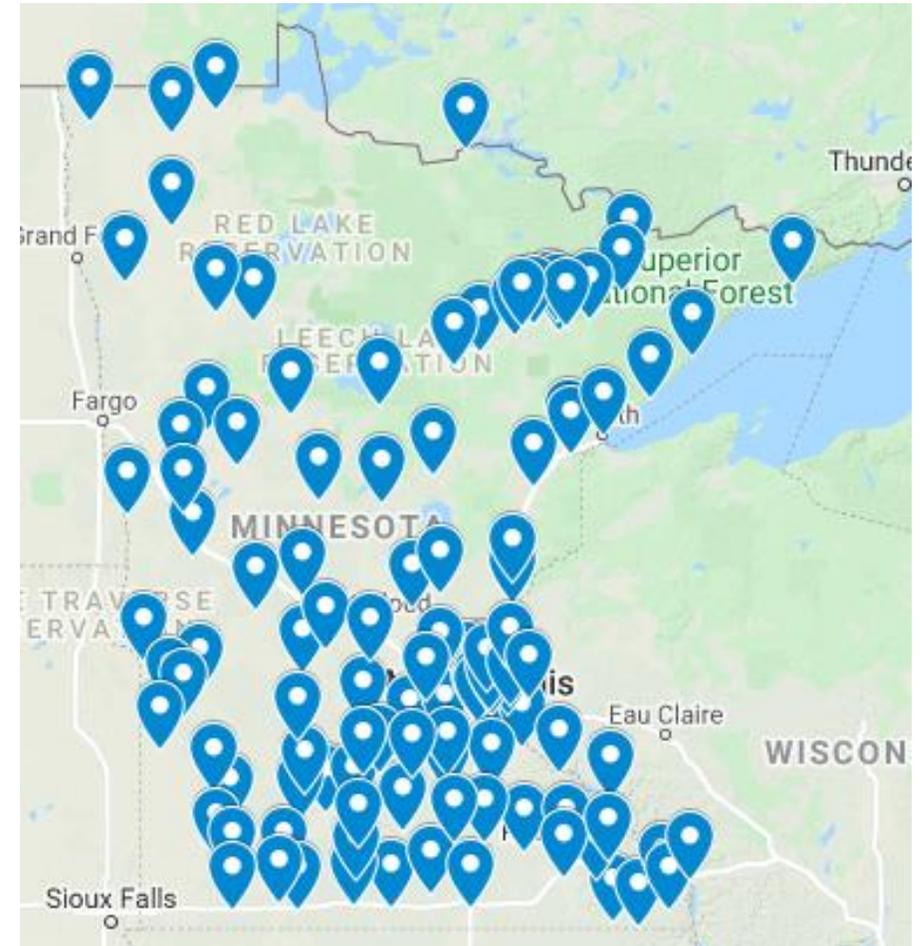
- Minn. Stat. 134.45
- Eligible applicants: cities, counties, and regional public library systems
- Two project types:
 - Improvement (max. award of \$1,000,000)
 - Accessibility (max. award of \$450,000)
- Requires minimum local match of 50% total project costs
- Competitive peer-review process



Howard Lake Library, 2021 grantee

Program Data

- Funded 16 times from 1994 through 2025
- Appropriations ranging from \$750K to \$4M
- 187 awards made in project lifespan
- Average award = \$107,987
 - Largest = \$1M in 2018 for Fergus Falls
 - Smallest = \$614 in 1996 for White Bear Lake
- Average local match = \$6.27 local per \$1 state



2026 Recommendation and Interest



Two Harbors Public Library, 2021 grantee

- **2026 recommendation is \$2 million**
- Historically, \$17.8M in grant funds has drawn nearly \$112M in local support
- Prospective cities: Duluth, Alexandria, Sauk Centre, Brainerd, Blackduck, Crookston, Winona, Albert Lea, Winthrop
- Prospective counties: Ramsey, Nobles, Washington, Watonwan, Douglas, Anoka
- Estimated need is over \$219M statewide

Thank You