Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund: Investment in libraries

Libraries as centers of work, education, and health monitoring

Imagine gathering spaces in our communities for neighbors to meet and connect, for job seekers to access WiFi and resume help, for children to discover and learn through play, and for community members to work, study, and access services such as community health support. Imagine places where partners such as Ramsey County Workforce case workers and University of St. Thomas nursing students serve people in neighborhood settings. These free, accessible spaces that welcome everyone exist in our public libraries. They are neighborhood resilience centers.

▶ Opportunity to invest

The Coronavirus Capital Project Fund is designed to support multi-purpose community facility projects, such as libraries. Investments in library capital projects will improve access to public spaces that enable work, education, health monitoring, connection to broadband, and more.

A $10 million dollar investment in Saint Paul Public Library will transform library facilities, better equipping them to provide high-quality, resource-rich and technology-rich spaces that fully realize this vision of multi-purpose community spaces for the people of Saint Paul and surrounding areas. Investment would support the following library transformations:

Hayden Heights Library

Built in 1955 | Last renovated in 1979
Located in Saint Paul's Greater East Side neighborhood.
- 58.2% of community members identify as people of color
- 32.6% of workers earn $35,000 or less per year
- 18.6% of workers hold a Bachelor's degree or higher

Riverview Library

Built in 1917 | Last renovated in 1989
Located in Saint Paul's West Side neighborhood.
- 42% of community members identify as people of color
- 33.9% of workers earn $35,000 or less per year
- 32.2% of workers hold a Bachelor's degree or higher

Data source: Minnesota Compass

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY | SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA | School of Nursing Morrison Family College of Health | UNIVERSITY OF St. Thomas | THE FRIENDS OF THE SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY | Greater East Side Community Council | WEST SIDE community organization

sppl.org/facilities-direction