



**MINNESOTA LIBRARY**  
ASSOCIATION

April 7, 2021

Representative Mary Murphy  
Vice Chair, House Capital Investment Committee  
343 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Library Construction Grants

Dear Representative Murphy,

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association, I am writing to thank you for your strong support and advocacy for public libraries. In particular, we would like to thank you for your strong support of the Library Construction Grant program over the years. As you are aware, public library buildings are a vital part of a community's social infrastructure. Your continued support of bonding dollars for construction and remodeling of public library buildings through the State's authorized matching program will help ensure that all Minnesotans have access to safe, accessible and welcoming library spaces.

Since 1995, over 150 library projects have benefitted from this program. Grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$1M allowed for the renovation of current spaces, provided ADA accessibility, and completed new construction projects. Recent projects include:

- The expansion of the Fergus Falls Public Library, which received \$1M in grant funds of the \$8M total project costs. This expansion resulted in advanced technology access for the community, enhanced areas for youth and improved community meeting rooms and gathering spaces.
- In 2019, the community of Kimball was awarded just under \$500K for a new library which will replace an outdated, century-old location. With only 800 square feet, the previous location lacked space for high-demand collections and public computer stations, and most importantly - accessibility. Thanks to the construction grant and the more than 250 individuals, businesses and organizations who raised the funds for the matching grant, the new 4,000 square foot building will provide the necessary services – including a community room available to the public beyond library open hours – to better serve the community for decades to come.

Because the need is great, and because investing in library infrastructure means investing in Minnesota's communities, the Minnesota Library Association strongly urges the House Capital Investment Division to provide funding at the highest level of support.

Sincerely,

*Stacey Hendren*

Stacey Hendren  
MLA President  
Area Library Manager,  
Anoka County Library

*Sarah Hawkins*

Sarah Hawkins,  
Legislative Committee Chair, MLA  
Project Manager, Metropolitan Library  
Service Agency (MELSA)

*Scott Vrieze*

Scott Vrieze  
Chair, CRPLSA Executive Director,  
Metropolitan Library Service Agency  
(MELSA)



**Public Library Capital Needs Identified by the Council of Regional Public Library Systems (CRPLSA), April 2021**

Region	Library Name	City	Estimated Cost	Potential State Share	Description
ALS	Chisholm Public Library	Chisholm	\$300,000	\$150,000	Renovation
ECRL	Sandstone PL	Sandstone	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation/Construction
GRRL	Cold Spring PL	Cold Spring	\$600,000	\$300,000	Renovation
GRRL	Howard Lake PL	Howard Lake	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Construction
KRLS	Wadena PL	Wadena	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	Renovation
LARL	Moorhead PL	Moorhead	\$19,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
LARL	Mahnomen PL	Mahnomen	\$158,000	\$79,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Maplewood Library	Maplewood	\$3,700,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Ramsey County Roseville	Roseville	\$3,400,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	Washington County Park Grove Library	Cottage Grove	\$7,000,000	\$1,000,000	Construction
MELSA	Hennepin County Franklin Library	Minneapolis	\$2,937,000	\$1,000,000	Refurbish/Renovation
MELSA	Belle Plaine Library (Scott County)	Belle Plaine	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Hayden Heights Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$4,300,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Riverview Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$2,700,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
MELSA	St Paul Hamline-Midway Branch Library	Saint Paul	\$2,900,000	\$1,000,000	Renovation
PCLS	Minneota Public Library	Minneota	\$60,560		Refurbish
SELCO	Grand Meadow Public Library	Mower	\$12,830		Refurbish
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$52,678,390</b>	<b>\$11,334,000</b>	



# MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**Minnesota Library Association**  
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Additional Projects:			
ALS	Coleraine Public Library: Elevator for accessibility in a Carnegie building.		
ALS	Duluth Public Library: Major remodel under discussion.		
ALS	Eveleth Public Library: New windows and roof.		
ALS	Gilbert Public Library: Repair to accessibility ramp and new stairs into the building.		
ALS	Hibbing Public Library: Restrooms in need of remodeling.		
ALS	Silver Bay Public Library: Small addition, an accessible emergency exit, and relocation of entrance for improved accessibility.		
ALS	Two Harbors Public Library: New roof on Carnegie building and a building expansion.		
TdS	Janesville: New building or major remodel under discussion for size and accessibility-old Carnegie style building		
VLS	New York Mills Public Library: New roof, windows, doors, insulation, and siding. Possible expansion.		
VLS	Pelican Rapids Public Library: Small addition and entry remodel		
VLS	Douglas County Library: Remodel and expansion, or new build.		