



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Neil D. Breslin

## Senator Breslin Announces Grant Awards for Local Libraries

NEIL D. BRESLIN May 9, 2012

ALBANY, NY - Senator Neil D. Breslin (D – Delmar) announced that five libraries in his district have been awarded grants from the public library construction grant fund. The libraries are Albany Public Library, Altamont Free Library, Guilderland Public Library, Berne Public Library and the Rensselaerville Library.

“New York’s public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading,” explained Breslin. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$2.53 billion. More than 40% of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 30% are more than three decades old.

“Many of New York’s local public libraries are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, are energy inefficient, cannot provide Internet and computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring, and do not have sufficient space to house the library’s expanding collection, address the need for adequate meeting room, or provide for public access computers,” stated Breslin. “This grant money will help modernize some of the local libraries in our communities.”

Project activities and expenditures eligible for grants from the \$14 million Public Library Construction Grant Program include financing construction of new library buildings, construction of additions to existing buildings, and the renovation and/or rehabilitation of existing space, including roof replacement, purchase and installation of alternative energy resources and new HVAC systems, windows, doors, and lighting systems, electrical upgrades, and construction of new or replacement of old walkways and parking lots, among other things. New furniture, shelving and equipment, including computer equipment, can be purchased for new or newly reconfigured or renovated space. Renovations designed to provide accessibility for patrons with disabilities is a high priority.

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