



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Construction Grants Awarded To 51st SD Libraries

JAMES L. SEWARD August 10, 2015

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ONEONTA, 08/10/15 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today announced that community libraries throughout the 51st senatorial district have been awarded a total of \$388,930 in public library construction grant funds.

"Our libraries are community hubs, hosting countless activities that enrich lives young and old," Seward said. **"Libraries are also some of the most historic landmarks we have and they are often in need of costly technological and accessibility upgrades that must be accomplished while still maintaining their traditional character."**

Public library construction grants help local libraries and library systems to construct new library buildings, create additions, update electrical wiring to accommodate computer technology, meet standards of energy efficiency, renovate facilities to provide full accessibility to library users with disabilities, and provide meeting rooms to accommodate community needs. New furniture, shelving, and equipment, including computer equipment, can be purchased for new or newly reconfigured or renovated space.

"Libraries have evolved a great deal over the years to continue to meet community needs, especially in the rural areas I represent. Electronic lending has skyrocketed and many people utilize the Internet at their local library to job search or catch up on news from around the globe," Seward added.

New York’s public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. More than 48 percent of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 30 percent are more than three decades old.

Senator Seward is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries and a consistent advocate for libraries. He has routinely received high marks from the New Yorkers for Better Libraries for his support of libraries.

“Assisting libraries with state funds takes the burden off local taxpayers, while preserving and improving these valuable resources for generations to come,” Seward concluded.

The grants are from \$14 million in capital funds for public library construction provided in the 2014-15 state budget.

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Complete listing of individual grant awards throughout Senator Seward’s district:

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| Cortland | Cortland Free Library | 32 Church Street Cortland NY 13045 | \$10,700 | Energy efficient lighting project |
| Herkimer | Jordanville Public Library | 189 Main Street Jordanville NY 13361 | \$6,525 | Rehabilitation of deteriorating stone fireplace to ensure safety and stability of library building. |
| Otsego | Village Library of Cooperstown | 22 Main Street Cooperstown NY 13326 | \$26,933 | Village Library of Cooperstown renovation project. |

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| Worcester Free Library | 170 Main Street Worcester NY 12197 | \$101,294 | Energy efficient windows and siding. | |
| Tompkins | Finger Lakes Library System | 1300 Dryden Road Ithaca NY 14850 | \$243,478 | Phase 2 construction of Finger Lakes Library System headquarters. |