



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David J. Valesky

## Senator Valesky Announces Library Construction Grant Awards

DAVID J. VALESKY June 28, 2016

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SYRACUSE, NY – Senator David J. Valesky (D-Oneida) announced today that two libraries in Onondaga County have been awarded public library construction grant funds. The capital funds, provided for in the 2015 State Budget, will enable the libraries to start or complete various projects that will improve patron services.

“Libraries across my district are continuously expanding their services across technological platforms and report increased patronage,” Sen. Valesky said. “I am pleased to be able to support this grant funding to help libraries with building upgrades and improved services to meet community needs.”

Sen. Valesky has been a longtime supporter of libraries and serves as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Libraries.

Libraries receiving grants in Madison County are:

- **Oneida Public Library, Oneida**--\$153,225--Install plumbing and a fire protection system in the new library
- **Sullivan Free Library, Chittenango**--\$24,990—Replace existing flat roof

Library receiving grant in Oneida County:

- **Kirkland Town Library, Kirkland**--\$13,365—Install new insulation and a drywall ceiling, and convert lighting in main area to LEDs

Libraries receiving grants in Onondaga County are:

- **LaFayette Public Library, LaFayette**--\$7,840--Staff workspace renovations
- **Northern Onondaga Public Library at Brewerton, Brewerton**--\$16,774--Create a digitization station

New York's public libraries are in urgent need of renovation and upgrading. A recent survey showed a documented need for public library construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$2.2 billion. More than 51% of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 33% 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are energy inefficient, cannot provide Internet and computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring, and do not have sufficient space to house the library's expanding collection, address the need for adequate meeting room, or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.

Project activities and expenditures eligible for grants from the State Aid for Library Construction 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.

In the 2016 State Budget, the Legislature provided \$19 million for projects that will be announced in Spring 2017.