



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Seward Announces \$700k for Local Libraries

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| ISSUE: **LIBRARY FUNDING**



ONEONTA, 05/31/17 – 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 nearly \$700,000 in public library construction grant funds.

"Our libraries are significant educational resources that also serve as community hubs," Seward said. **"In many towns and villages, the local library is also a historic landmark in need of costly technological and accessibility upgrades that must be accomplished while still maintaining the building's traditional character."**

The grants are from \$19 million in capital funds for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects provided in the 2016-17 state budget. Senator Seward strongly advocated for the funding which represents a \$5 million dollar increase from the previous year. In the recently adopted 2017-18 state budget, Senator Seward helped secure another \$5 million increase, bringing the total available for library capital projects next year to \$24 million.

“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. The library is also a gathering place where a vast array of education programs and other events are always available,” Seward added.

Public library construction grants help local libraries and library systems to construct new library buildings, create additions to existing structures, 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. Renovations designed to provide accessibility for those with disabilities are a high priority. Broadband infrastructure projects are also eligible

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 \$1.7 billion. More than 51 percent of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across New York are over 60 years old. Another 33 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.

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

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| Delaware | Bovina Public Library | 33 Maple Ave Bovina Center NY 13740 | \$140,776 | Basement renovations including ADA entrance and bathroom |
| | Franklin Free Library | 334 Main Street Franklin NY 13775 | \$115,281 | ADA access including ramp and entry, elevator and bathroom |

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| Herkimer | Frank J Basloe Public Library | 245 N. Main St. Herkimer NY 13350 | \$67,449 | Upgrade the electrical, security and phone systems. Reconfigure staff workroom. |
| | Little Falls Public Library | 10 Waverly Place Little Falls NY 13365 | \$23,222 | Replace damaged ceilings, and stairs. Upgrade wheelchair ramp. |
| Otsego | Huntington Memorial Library | 62 Chestnut St. Oneonta NY 13820 | \$48,047 | Insulate building and abate asbestos |
| | Kinney Memorial Library | 3140 County Route 11 Hartwick NY 13348 | \$26,801 | Replace furnace and make structural rehabilitations |
| | Springfield Library | 129 County Highway 29a Springfield Center NY 13468 | \$25,703 | Expand library into adjoining room |
| | Village Library of Cooperstown | 22 Main Street Cooperstown NY 13326 | \$34,894 | Window restoration project |
| | Worcester Free Library | 170 Main Street Worcester NY 12197 | \$111,374 | Expand existing facility |
| Schoharie | Schoharie Free Library Association | 103 Knower Avenue Schoharie NY 12157 | \$54,792 | Replace roof and drains. Replace paved area/driveway |

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| The Community Library | 110 Union St. Cobleskill NY 12043 | \$45,326 | Install insulation, ventilation and access to mechanical areas |
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