



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Sen. Griffo announces construction grants for public libraries

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO August 22, 2018

State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-I-C-Rome, announced today that several public libraries throughout his district are receiving library construction grant funds. The state funding comes from \$24 million in capital funds approved for public library construction projects in last year's State Budget.

The construction grants help libraries and library systems make renovations and upgrades, update electrical wiring to accommodate computer technology, renovate facilities to provide wheelchair accessible entrances and become fully accessible to persons with disabilities and provide community-meeting rooms.

The following grants were awarded to libraries in Sen. Griffo's district:

- Harrisville Free Library: \$22,939 to renovate the basement to create a STEAM/Makerspace Lab.
- Lyons Falls Library: \$83,795 to rehabilitate masonry and install signage.
- Massena Public Library: \$38,274 for interior renovations and outdoor programming area.
- Potsdam Public Library: \$269,513 for renovations to the interior, including a new mezzanine and HVAC upgrade.
- Clayville Library Association: \$9,463 to replace entryways to create handicap accessibility.

- Dunham Public Library: \$99,321 to construct a new entrance with security system and replace a HVAC system.
- Erwin Library and Institute: \$91,626 to rehabilitate a deteriorating slate roof.
- Mid-York Library System: \$112,288 for roof replacement, foundation restoration and other exterior improvements.
- Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library: \$5,706 to replace an air conditioning unit for the building.
- Waterville Public Library: \$8,894 to retrofit the building with energy-saving LED lights

Surveys have estimated that the cost of public library construction and renovation needs statewide totals more than \$1.7 billion, according to the New York State Library, which administers the grants. More than half of the over 1,000 public library buildings in communities across state are over 60 years old and another 33 percent are more than three decades old. Many of these facilities are unable to accommodate users with disabilities, are energy inefficient and cannot provide Internet, computer and other electronic technologies to users because of outdated and inadequate electrical wiring. Some 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.

"Our public libraries have evolved over the years into community spaces offering a variety of important services and resources to families, seniors and residents," Sen. Griffo said.

"However, it might not be financially feasible for many of these valuable institutions to undergo needed renovations, upgrades and other improvements. This funding will help us to preserve our local libraries for years to come."

In the 2018-19 State Budget, the Legislature provided \$34 million for projects that will be announced next summer.

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