



Potential Grant Opportunity!

[Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities](#)

Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

ALA is now accepting applicants for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to be distributed over the next three years.

Benefits of this grant for my community library

Libraries are essential points of contact and connection for people in small, rural communities. Through exploration and discovery, children and adults alike have opportunities to learn and grow in our local libraries. However, when our libraries lack important accommodations to make them accessible for all patrons we are essentially isolating a group of the community. Inclusion of children and adults with disabilities starts when we create accessible and inviting spaces throughout our community.

Possible accessibility changes for different community groups (page 21 of [Accessibility in Libraries: A Landscape Review](#))

- Deaf or hard-of-hearing:** live captioning, American Sign Language interpretation, transcription services
- Blind or low vision:** braille, audio recording, high contrast text, magnifying devices, screen reading tools
- Mobility:** wheelchairs, ramps, elevators, large print directional signs, accessible restrooms, book delivery
- Intellectual disabilities:** non-verbal communication tools, talking books, private study rooms, books with images
- Sensory:** calming materials and location, quiet spaces, dim lights, sensory-friendly programs



To find out more about making libraries accessible...

Read [Accessibility in Libraries: A Landscape Review](#) to learn more about how accessibility can improve our local libraries!

Application Criteria

Due: Applications are open now and will be due by February 28th, 2023

Basic eligibility requirements:

- Libraries serving small (community with population of 25,000 or less) and rural (area more than or equal to five miles from urbanized area) communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories
- Complete and eligible applications received on time will be reviewed

Before applying:

1. Participating libraries will need to conduct a community input-gathering session to identify the primary audience hoping to reach. For example, your local library may hope to reach deaf community members, autistic individuals, those with physical and/or visible disabilities, those with sensory disabilities, or another group of the disability community.

Application will ask for the following:

1. Basic information about your library (location, library type, size of community, etc.)
2. Description of library and community, including demographics and key issues and/or challenges
3. Primary audience based on your input-gathering session (including plans for outreach and overall goals)
4. Rationale of applying to the grant and choosing this audience
5. Project plan, including how audience's perspectives will be incorporated throughout project and potential activities
6. Any supporting documents, including but not limited to letters of support, sample promotional materials, draft agendas, draft discussions, videos

Review the [guidelines](#) and watch the [pre-application webinar](#) before applying; make sure you include all the necessary details.

Libraries Selected for Funding

Libraries will receive:

- \$10,000 to \$20,000 to support costs
- Virtual training for project directors
- Online resources
- Technical and project support for ALA

Requirements for libraries selected:

- Designate one project director
- Share information about project
- Once you have identified a primary audience, you will facilitate a community conversation to guide what types of accessibility changes could benefit them. Click [here](#) for a quick guide on how to facilitate a community conversation in your local library.
- Share information about next steps with primary audience
- Participate in project evaluation and reporting
- Spend grant funds by May 31, 2023
- Submit final report to ALA by June 30, 2024

Learn more!



[Online Learning](#)

Get started with the free e-course, "Libraries Transforming Communities: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries."

Contact someone directly

Phone: (312) 280-5045 or toll free at (800) 545-2433 x 5045

E-mail: publicprograms@ala.org.

Office Hours: Register to drop in during [Virtual Office Hours](#).