

New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act

UPDATED ON April 5, 2023

Background

On July 21, 2017, Governor Chris Christie signed the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, P.L. 2017, c. 149, which authorized the issuance of \$125 million in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects at public libraries. The State Library developed the rules to implement the Act for the construction, reconstruction, extension, improvement, and furnishing of New Jersey's public libraries. These rules (regulations) became effective November 4, 2019.

- The original Library Construction Bond Act (LCBA) law, P.L. 2017, c. 149, can be found [here](#).
- The regulations governing the LCBA program can be found [here](#).

The State Library issued two rounds of grant solicitations, the first in Winter 2020 and the Second in Spring 2021.

Round One – Winter 2020

Round 1 of the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act passed both the Assembly and the Senate on November 16, 2020. It was signed by Governor Phil Murphy on November 20, 2020.

- To see the Round One appropriation act, click [here](#).
- To see the list of Round One grantees, click [here](#).

Round Two – Spring 2021

Round Two of the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act passed both the Assembly and the Senate on January 10, 2022. It was signed by Governor Murphy on January 12, 2022.

- To see the Round Two appropriation act, click [here](#).
- To see the list of Round Two grantees, click [here](#).

Round Two – Reallocation of Grant Funds

On October 19, 2022, the State Library, through the President of Thomas Edison State University, submitted a request to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC) seeking approval of the reallocation of \$1,764,447, appropriated to Newark Public Library during the second round of Library Construction Bond Act (LCBA) funding, to two projects which were submitted for consideration during the Round 2 application period, but were not awarded grants due to limited funding. Both libraries were eligible to receive grants under the Bond Act and were included on the alternate list of recommended projects to receive grants in the event that funding became available. On December 30, 2022, JBOC unanimously approved the reallocation request.

To see the letter request submitted to JBOC, click [here](#).

To see the list of projects receiving reallocated funds, click [here](#).

Managing Your Grant

Here you can find the resources to help manage your current LCBA grant.

LCBA Contacts

The LCBA program is being managed by the State Library. Here's how you can reach us with any questions or concerns:

Jennifer Nelson, State Librarian, (609) 278-2640 x101, jnelson@njstatelib.org
Sheri Shafer, Chief Operating Officer, (609) 278-2640 x137, sshafer@njstatelib.org
Ruth Pallante, Assistant to Jen Nelson, (609) 278-2640 x151, rpallante@njstatelib.org

Grantee Forms

- [Authorized Signatories Form](#)

- Moving Rent and Off-Site Storage Extension Request Form
- Project Timeline Extension Request Form
- Substantial Changes to Project Request Form – Initial

Resources

Resource Lists of Consultants

- Architects List
- Library Building Consultants
- Moving, Storage, Relocation Services for Libraries
- Interior Designers
- Fundraisers List

The State Library has provided these resource lists for information purposes only and does not make recommendations on any firms included in these resource lists.

Americans with Disabilities Act

- ADA and Libraries
- Libraries and Accessibility: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- 12 Basic Requirements for ADA Compliance at the Library
- ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities
- New ADA Signage Standards Take Effect
- The Americans with Disabilities Act – Title II Technical Assistance Manual

Other Resources

- Choosing an Architect for Your Construction Project
- Planning a New Library Building
- Public Library Construction Bibliography
- New Jersey Clean Energy Program
- Advocacy and the Power of Narrative: Storytelling as a Fundraising Tool (American Libraries)
- Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces (Webjunction)
- Helsinki's Poetic New Central Library Is a Public Space for the Digital Age (Metropolis)
- A Robot-filled, Architectural Marvel in North Carolina is the Library of the Future (Quartz)
- Chicago Finds a Way to Improve Public Housing: Libraries (New York Times)
- WBDG: Whole Building Design Guide This article, updated in 2017, gives an overview of design considerations for public libraries. The information on sustainable design is particularly interesting. It provides a checklist to ensure that public libraries incorporate sustainable design. The article also provides a quick overview of space needs and design demonstrating the kind of determinations and calculations that a building consultant will provide.

Previous Posts

- Round One Archives
- Round Two Archives