

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries
August 22, 2023

State Library Updates

Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) Program for NJ Libraries

With funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Space Science Institute, through its **Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL)** program, has provided the NJ State Library with solar science kits, and information and activities to share with public libraries for their library patrons. Public libraries are encouraged to borrow these kits, [click to learn more and request a kit](#).

Upcoming NJSL Webinars Highlighting Available Statewide Services

- Statewide Reference Services Through the Newark Public Library - **Aug. 24, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**
- HeritageQuest Online Introduction - **Sept. 7, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**
- Get to Know the Updated Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep - **Sept. 26, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**

[Click here to register for upcoming webinars.](#)

Did you miss the "Back-to-school with EBSCO" webinar that took place on Aug. 10th? The [recording](#) is now available.

Open for Comment: Proposed Library Construction Bond Act Amendments

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to review proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 15:24-2.5, 2.6, and 4.1. The proposals are available for comment, [click here to view](#). Please forward any written comments by **September 3, 2023** to jnelson@njstatelib.org or by U.S. mail.

CPF Grant Application Materials Now Available

The application period for the Community Center Digital Connect grant program is now open. [Click here](#) to access the grant webpage where application materials, technical assistance resources, Q&A documentation, and other information can be found. **Applications are due September 25.**

Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience Webinar

Join us on **Sept. 26th, 2:00-3:00pm**, for a webinar with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. Part of a series, this webinar will feature library practitioners who will discuss how they have prepared both libraries and communities for the impacts of climate change. Panel discussion topics will include traditional disaster preparedness, business continuity planning, community resilience work, and preparing communities for severe weather events and the increased likelihood of food supply interruptions. [Click to learn more and register.](#)

ACP Connects NJ

Join us and become a library host for ACP in-person enrollment events to help your community members start saving on their Internet bill! Our *ACP Connects NJ* staff will be on hand to answer questions about ACP benefits and help individuals complete the application on the spot. Learn more [here](#). Contact Andrea Levandowski for information about signing on to be a host site: alevandowski@njstatelib.org.

Save the Date: Northeast Virtual Summit on Resilient Library Facilities

Save the date for the Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation for Resilient Library Facilities, taking place on **November 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The keynote speaker is Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson NY Library System, and the full agenda will be released in September when registration opens. [Click to learn more.](#)

Save the Date: Experienced Directors Summit

The New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ are partnering to present the Experienced Directors Summit at Hunterdon County Library on **November 15th, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Registration will open in October. [Click to learn more.](#)

NJSL Marketing Blog: Tips for Consistently Engaging Facebook Content

We've gathered some tips for creating consistently engaging Facebook content for our latest marketing blog. [Click to read.](#)

News from Around the State

Assistance Available for Electronically Stolen Benefits

The Department of Human Services Division of Family Development (DFD) has assistance available for electronically stolen benefits for households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, and the General Assistance (GA) Program. [Click here for additional details.](#)

Opportunity for NJ Libraries to Assist Adult Learners

The New Jersey Department of Education is offering an opportunity for NJ public libraries to administer GED testing for adult learners who want to achieve their State-issued high school diploma. If you'd like your library to offer this additional assistance to adult learners, [click to learn more](#).

National Opportunities

Updates from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)

Attention all public library staff who played an active role in administering 2023 summer library programming! Please fill out the [Collaborative Summer Library Program \(CSLP\) summer reading survey](#) by **September 8th, 2023**. If you're interested in sharing your thoughts on the suggested summer reading program themes for future years, feel free to attend virtual listening sessions on **August 24th and September 8th**. [Click to learn more and register](#).

Professional Development Opportunities

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of NJSL and National CE and Professional Development opportunities for librarians, trustees, and library staffs.

Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, check out our [Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [Introducing Instagram Threads](#)
- [Design Tips for Social Media Graphics](#)
- [Busting Social Media Myths](#)

- [How To Be A Better Blogger](#)

Download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners [here](#).

[Click to Connect with the NJSL Library
Development Unit](#)

Connecting people with information through libraries.

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)



Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) Program for NJ Libraries

August 15, 2023

Julia Giantomasi

[About the State Library](#) [Services for Libraries](#)

**Two solar eclipses are coming to North
America: an Annular Eclipse in 2023 and a
Total Solar Eclipse in 2024!**



With funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Space Science Institute, through its **Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) program** has provided the NJ State Library with solar science kits, and information and activities to share with public libraries for their library patrons.

The NJ State Library is circulating two solar eclipse activities for libraries (SEAL) kits. We have 4 kits in total: 2 of each type of kits. Borrowers can have one kit at a time for one week and they must come to the NJ State Library to pick it up in person.

- A **multi-generational kit** that contains a solar telescope and sunoculars, with accompanying science activities. The kit measures 44"X 20"X 17"
- A **younger audience kit** that includes a sunspotter and sunoculars with accompanying science activities. The kit measures 30.5"X20"X17"

**Note: While the kit is designed for younger audiences, the younger audience kit may be used for all age groups.*



Multigenerational Kit



Younger

Audience Kit

Public libraries can borrow one of the kits for one week. You must come to the NJ State Library in-person to pick up the kit and have a vehicle large enough to fit the kit. The multi-generational kit is 44"X20"X17". The youth audiences kit is 30.5"X20"X17". Each kit weighs 40-50 pounds.

Click here to register to request a kit.

While staff at the State Library will seek to honor requested weeks for programming, we cannot guarantee your week request will be available. The New Jersey State Library will email you more information about using the kits to your library when we confirm your requested week.

The Science Institute's SEAL team has also developed a **guide** for public libraries that contains ideas and resources for solar eclipse science and viewing. STAR Net has a **blog** with information for getting started using the solar eclipse resources and a short **How-To-Video** on how to set up and operate the solar telescope. They also have a clearinghouse with STEM activities for public libraries. Access more solar eclipse activities **here**.

Questions regarding the New Jersey State Library's SEAL kits can be directed to Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, srawlins@njstatelib.org.

GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION
NASA @
My Library



SPACE
SCIENCE
INSTITUTE

STAR★*net*

Science-Technology Activities &
Resources For Libraries

Community Center Digital Connect

A CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (CPF) GRANT OPPORTUNITY



Welcome to the Community Center Digital Connect grant page.

This grant aims to support the construction or improvement of buildings that enable work, education, and health monitoring in communities with critical needs

Our mission is to empower communities by providing access to high-quality modern infrastructure, including broadband, essential for accessing critical services.

Grant Purpose

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Communities

Application Process

Step-by-step Breakdown: 1. Review the grant guidelines and eligibility criteria. 2. Prepare the required documents and application form. 3. Submit your application by the deadline of September 25, 2023. 4. Await notification of grant award decisions.

Timeline:

- Application Guidelines Available July 10, 2023
- Technical Assistance Webinar July 25, 2023
- Questions Due August 25, 2023
- Responses to Questions Posted July 18, 2023 – September 8, 2023 (weekly)
- Applications Due September 25, 2023
- Awards offered November 22, 2023
- Project Technical Assistance November 22, 2023 – February 15, 2024
- Pre-Award Risk Assessment November 22, 2023 – December 22, 2023
- Grant Agreements sent out February 15, 2024
- Projects start March 1, 2024

Apply Here

Foundant online grant management system, where applicants can submit their grant applications.

- [**Foundant Link**](#)
- [**Creating a New Account in Foundant \(PDF\)**](#): Step-by-step instructions for creating a new account in the Foundant system.
- [**Submitting an Application in Foundant \(PDF\)**](#): A guide to submitting a grant application through the Foundant system.

Climate Action Planning (Part 2): Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience

August 28, 2023

Julia Giantomasi

About the State Library | Library Development Bureau | Services for Libraries

Part of a series, this webinar with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will feature library practitioners who will discuss how they have prepared both libraries and communities for the impacts of climate change.

This panel discussion will feature practitioners with deep experience in preparing both their libraries, and their communities, for the impacts of climate change. Our panel will speak to traditional disaster preparedness, business continuity planning, community resilience work, and preparing communities for severe weather events and the increased likelihood of food supply interruptions. While libraries are not first responders, they should be connected with the emergency management community and be positioned as part of both the short-term and long-term “first restorer” network as disruptions amplified by climate change happen with more frequency.

[Click here to register.](#)

When:

September 26, 2023, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Presented by:



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MLS, LEED AP), Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System (NY), Co-founder/Current President, Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI), and author



**Keith Adams, Executive Director, New Jersey
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster**



**Michele Stricker, Deputy State Librarian, Library
Development Bureau, New Jersey State Library**



Deborah Costa, Region 2 Community Preparedness Officer, FEMA

NJ State Library and NJ Department of Health Partner to Assist Eligible NJ Residents with Enrolling in Federal Affordable Broadband Benefit – August 3, 2023

Both agencies will host a series of ACP Connects NJ events across the state to drive awareness about affordable broadband options and to assist with enrollment

TRENTON, NJ – August 3, 2023 – The New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University, and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) are partnering to launch *ACP Connects NJ* to help build awareness and participation in New Jersey for the [**Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)**](#). ACP is a national broadband affordability initiative of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that helps households afford the broadband they need for work, school, health care, and more. Eligible households receive a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service. The benefit also provides a discount of up to \$100 per household toward a one-time qualifying purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet.

NJSL received a federal ACP grant for \$400,000 from the FCC to support New Jersey households struggling to afford internet service. NJSL and NJDOH will collaborate with other community partners, including food pantries and Federally Qualified Health Centers, to host enrollment and outreach events. The ACP Connects NJ initiative will concentrate on communities in Central and South Jersey.

“The digital divide and challenges to access are very real for New Jerseyans. A 2022 Rutgers University study showed more than 10% of NJ households do not have broadband internet access, and many more cannot afford or get home internet at

speeds and prices that truly provide universal access,” said Jen Nelson, New Jersey State Librarian. “By bringing people affordable access through ACP enrollment, libraries and health care organizations are bridging the divide in a meaningful way.”

“The pandemic has shown us the importance of providing timely, personalized information and outreach to vulnerable communities and increasing access to care and education, including telehealth, to improve positive health outcomes,” said Nashon Hornsby, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Community Health at NJDOH.

The **FCC has targeted approximately \$66 million** to fund the ACP initiative, to drive awareness and enrollment across the country. Building on its current community partnerships, the FCC is providing financial support to partner organizations nationwide to serve as trusted community messengers about the ACP and equipping them with funding to pursue innovative outreach strategies to reach historically underserved and unserved communities.

Eligible households can enroll by going to **GetInternet.gov** to submit an online application or print a mail-in application. For questions about the ACP Connect NJ initiative, contact Mimi Lee, New Jersey State Library, at **mlee@njstatelib.org**, (609) 278-2640 x191.

Register Now for the Northeast Virtual Summit on Resilient Library Facilities

September 11, 2023

Julia Giantomasi

About the State Library | Library Development Bureau | Services for Libraries

R

Library facilities are critical infrastructure in the best of times. Climate change promises to increase the critical nature of library facilities to build community resilience and well-being. Climate change is predicted to bring more severe and frequent storms, an increase in the number of heat waves, and regionally specific hazards that will all have different social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on historically marginalized or underserved communities. Library facilities for the future will need to adapt in the face of these predictions to utilize indoor and outdoor spaces to increase our capacity to meet community needs.

This kick-off summit is the first joint partnership of all Northeast State Libraries in support of adaptive resilience solutions for libraries facing the effects of climate change to their buildings and communities. The focus will be on facilities adaptation and include practical takeaways, concrete steps, and suggestions for improvement. Each session will be inclusive of libraries at all budget levels. Routine repairs, incremental upgrades, and manageable changes will be covered, as together libraries plan for improvements for the future of climate adaptation.

[Click here to register.](#)

The keynote speakers are Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson NY Library System, and Matthew Bollerman, Executive Director of the Hauppauge Public Library (NY). Rebekkah and Matthew are the co-creators of the national Sustainable Libraries Initiative. Stay tuned for the full agenda!

Every State Library from NJ to Maine will be participating in this summit. Registration is free for all public libraries in participating states.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Michele Stricker**, NJ State Library's Director of the Library Development Bureau.