

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Announces First Round of Applications for Library Construction Bond Act

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Funding Will Provide Improvements to Modernize New Jersey's Libraries

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today announced the launch of the first round of grant solicitations for the Library Construction Bond Act. The Act, which authorized \$125 million in state bonds, was passed by New Jersey voters in November 2017 to support public libraries providing modern and technologically efficient library facilities.

“Libraries are a cornerstone of our communities and serve as trusted sources for vital information and resources,” **said Governor Murphy**. “With this funding, libraries across our state will be able to fund critical projects to improve their facilities and ensure a productive and pleasant experience for patrons young and old.”

“The State Library is very excited to bring the Library Construction Bond Program to fruition. This program provides a wonderful opportunity to improve library facilities, making them safer, more energy efficient, and technologically modern,” **said Mary Chute, New Jersey State Librarian**. “All of the projects to be funded through the Bond Act will directly benefit the communities and people of New Jersey. This initiative will improve our libraries’ ability to respond to the needs of our communities and will help New Jersey residents bridge the digital divide.”

“Our libraries are an integral part of communities across New Jersey,” **said Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, president of Thomas Edison State University**. “Through the Library Construction Bond Program, improvements to these libraries will increase access for New Jersey residents to a host of digital and physical resources and further support the educational priorities of the state.”

“Public libraries are invaluable resources to communities, and far too many of them are in desperate need of repair or renovation,” **said Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman**. “The voters approved borrowing for this purpose in 2017, and as the sponsor of legislation that placed the question on the ballot, I am very pleased this is finally becoming a reality.”

“Our libraries are the cornerstones of our communities. They help to keep residents connected to many crucial services,” **said Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo**. “With this first round of grant solicitation, we begin the effort to preserve and protect our state’s public libraries. These investments will pay off for generations to come.”

The bond program will provide funding for projects such as ADA accessibility, major building renovations, and new construction projects. The State Librarian, in consultation with the President of Thomas Edison State University, will be responsible for the administration and oversight of the Library Construction Bond Act grant solicitation.

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Applicants interested in applying for the grant should visit
<https://www.njstatelib.org/NJLibraryConstructionBond>
(https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/new-jersey-library-construction-bond-act/)

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