



Illinois State Library

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PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

The Office of the Secretary of State and the Illinois State Library are charged with administering two public library construction programs: the *Live and Learn Construction Grant Program*, and the *Public Library Construction Act Grant Program*. Each program operates under a separate set of rules unique to the statutory charge of the program, and each is applied for individually. **A library cannot apply for both programs in the same award year.** Following is an overview of the main characteristics of each program.

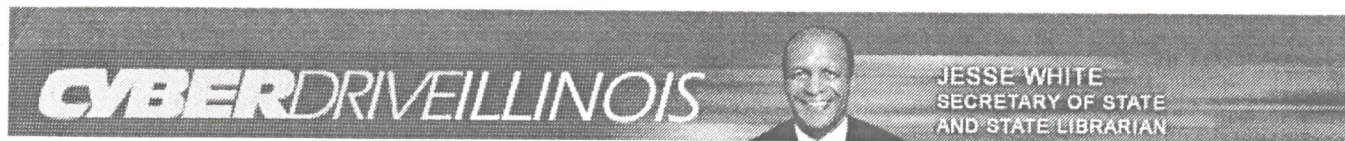
Live and Learn Construction Grant Program

- Funded by an annual state legislative appropriation.
- Awarded by the Secretary based on recommendations received from a statewide committee following their review process.
- Appropriate for libraries that are interested in: Remodeling for accessibility, Mini-Grants, or new construction, additions to and/or remodeling of existing buildings.
- Grant awards and ranges depend on the program applied for and the match amount, if required.
- Applications are due on **January 13, 2012**.

For more information about this public library construction grant program, visit the [Live and Learn Construction Grant Program website](#).

Public Library Construction Grant Program

- Funded by the sale of state bonds.
- Appropriate for libraries that are interested in major construction and remodeling projects.
- Grant awards will be no greater than 75% and no less than 35% of the recognized eligible project costs as determined by the Illinois State Library.
- These awards are based on each individual library's Grant Index which is calculated using a mathematical formula included in the legislation.
- The remaining project costs will be a local responsibility.
- View [legislation](#) authorizing this program.
- Applications are due on **April 16, 2012**.



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Live and Learn Construction Grant Program

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This grant program assists public libraries with construction costs in their facilities. Local money, except for Mini-Grants, will be matched by State grants based on the following grant categories:

Remodeling for Accessibility

- Grant award range: \$2,500 - \$50,000
- Remodeling for compliance with the [Americans With Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)
- Local matching funds required

Mini-Grants

- Grant award range: \$2,500 - \$25,000
- Public libraries with limited funds with an income of less than \$15 per capita
- Remodel or refurbish existing library facilities
- No local matching funds required

New Construction / Remodeling

- Grant award range: \$25,000 - \$125,000
- New library construction
- Remodeling of existing library buildings
- Conversion of existing buildings not currently used for library services
- Local matching funds required

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a public library

- Full member of a regional library system
- Permit intersystem reciprocal borrowing
- **Additional requirements for Mini-Grants only** - meets the eligibility criteria to qualify for Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant and has submitted an application for such grant

Reporting Manual and Forms

- Reporting Manual
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Quarterly Narrative Report
- Final Financial Report
- Final Narrative Report

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Public Library Construction Grant Program

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This grant program assists public libraries with construction costs in their facilities. The grant awards for eligible libraries will be determined by multiplying the library's Grant Index by the construction project's recognized eligible project costs.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a public library
- Full member of a regional library system
- Have a bibliographically organized collection
- Permit intrasystem reciprocal borrowing
- Eligible for an Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant
- Have not applied for a Live and Learn Construction Grant in the same award year
- Have not started construction or gone out for bids on the project

Funding Priority

1. Replacement or reconstruction of a public library facility that has been destroyed or damaged by flood, tornado, fire, earthquake or other disasters, either man-made or produced by nature.
2. Projects that are designed to address population growth or to replace aging public library facilities.
3. Replacement or reconstruction of public library facilities determined to be severe and continuing health or life safety hazards.
4. Alterations necessary to provide accessibility for qualified individuals with disabilities.
5. Other unique solutions to facility needs.

Capitol Needs Assessment Survey

The Secretary of State and the State Library must file with the General Assembly a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs of all public libraries every two years. The first such report was filed with the General Assembly in December,

2009.

To continue fulfilling our obligation under this law, the State Library must submit a second report prior to January 1, 2012. In order to compile the assessment report, **each** Illinois public library should complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey, **even if no capital improvements are needed**.