



Planning & Design Grant

The Library is applying for a Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) Grant

What is the MPLCP?

The MPLCP is a program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that provides state grants to municipalities for new or renovated library facilities.

Projects must design a facility projected to meet the 30-year needs of the community for library service.

2023-2024 Grant Round

Phase 1: Planning & Design (2024-2026)

- Town appropriates \$150,000 in anticipation of grant award
- Grant covers 50% of costs up to \$100,000
- Anticipated maximum cost is \$250,000

Phase 2: Construction (2026-2029)

- Grant covers about 40% of eligible costs
- Remaining funds come from the Town, Board of Trustees, and fundraising efforts

Grant Requirements

The following requirements for the grant are due by May 31, 2024:

\$150,000 Town Appropriation

- Required to fund 50% of planning & design costs not covered by grant

Town Financial Details

- Annual budgets ► Financial policies
- Capital plans ► Funding scenarios

Facility Assessment

- Required to assess current building if considering a renovation/expansion

Official Management Plan

- Required to address management of operations if considering a shared facility

Site Options

- Must select at least two potential sites
- Site Option 1: Current Library Site
- Site Option 2: McCloskey School Site

Library Building Program

- Serves as instructions to architect for design of a library

Strategic Plan

- Sets library goals for next five years

Why Is the Library Applying for an MPLCP Grant?

The 130-year-old library building can not meet current community needs for library service.

The Library faces significant challenges with accessibility, functionality, and infrastructure within its current footprint. The historic three-story building lacks an elevator, rendering it inaccessible to many residents who cannot navigate the spiral staircase. The building also requires updates to comply with modern codes and address aging infrastructure. The library's auditorium space and local history collection are located on the top floor, which lacks air conditioning and is poorly insulated. Further, only one single-user restroom serves the entire building. To provide 21st-century library services, additional space is needed for collections, programs, and public use.

Improving accessibility and functionality will allow the Town to provide more responsive services and adapt as community needs change.

Year of Construction

1894

Current Size of Library

Approx. 9,600 sq ft

Estimated Size Required for New or Renovated Library

23,111 sq ft

Uxbridge last applied for state funding in the 2000-2001 grant round. A 2002 project totaling \$6.3 million, eligible for \$1.9 million in state funding, failed to secure Town Meeting support.

Community Comments

During our planning process, we asked for the community's input about the Library facility and services. Here's a sample of what we heard.

"I'd like to see an updated, state of the art building that includes more activities for people in the community to engage in. I think the staff do a great job of including such activities now, but there are a lot of space constraints that are probably limiting."

"More reading space with dedicated program/community use space. My kids will be grown by then, but room for toddler play and comfy places for parents to supervise their kids is super important!"

"The library should be a community space people want to spend time in, including nice outdoor areas."

"I really wish there was space available to support meetings for local groups, such as Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts. It would be great to have the rooms throughout filled with more natural light."

"I always feel like I am going to fall down the spiral staircase. The children's room is bright and cheery, but it's so physically sectioned and a bit confusing to follow for someone who doesn't visit all too often. I feel it could be more open."

"The library should be bright and open with convenient parking and access. An in-town location would be ideal with spaces for small group meetings."

Voting "Yes" for Article 16

Allows the Town to submit an application for state funding and appropriates \$150,000 for the Planning and Design phase.

Scan the QR Code for more information about Article 16

