

## Opportunity: Accessibility Improvement Grants

**Grant Program Goal:** To improve accessibility inside and around public library facilities.

### Outcomes:

- ✓ Libraries will improve accessibility for patrons and/or staff.
- ✓ Increased user satisfaction from improvements.
- ✓ Grantees will define specific outcomes for their individual projects.

**Eligibility:** Grant is open to NEKLS member public libraries.

**Grant Amount:** Maximum award is \$5,000; up to \$25,000 in funds will be awarded.

**Application Due Date:** **September 1, 2023**

**Awarded funds will be spent by March 1, 2024.**

### Criteria:

- ✓ Proposed project must improve accessibility inside or around library facilities,
- ✓ Proposed project must be specific to either a library area or the type of accessibility improvement. Proposals should be one specific and cohesive project, as opposed to a combination of several unrelated projects. Here are two different examples of projects that could be approved: a. by area, a project to improve handicap parking spaces with new signage, pavement markings, and a curb cut, or b. by type, a project to improve the accessibility of library wayfinding throughout the building. An example of a project that will not receive full funding approval might be funding for a new library sign, exterior power assist doors, door handle replacements in bathrooms, and also improved lighting above library shelving.

**Application:** <https://forms.gle/qUGvsGn8o5sX7f3v9>

### Applicants will provide the following:

- ✓ A statement of the accessibility needs to be addressed and the targeted population to be served (*use application form*),
- ✓ A description of how the planned project will address the identified need (*use application form*),
- ✓ Identify at least one indicator or measure that you will track and analyze in order to understand the effectiveness of improvements (*use application form*),
- ✓ Budget (*send via email to Megan Mentzer@nekls.org at mmentzer@nekls.org*),
- ✓ A timeline for project activities (*send via email to Megan Mentzer at mmentzer@nekls.org*).

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**Reporting:** Recipient libraries will complete a brief grant report providing a description of the project, how staff was involved in carrying out the project activities, and the impact it had on project participants. ***NEKLS will provide recipients with a link for reporting at a later date.***

**Resources:** See the NEKLS resources from the “Accessibility” module available via nekls.org, by clicking on the menu: “Topics in Librarianship”.

**Questions?** Contact Dan Alexander at [dalexander@nekls.org](mailto:dalexander@nekls.org) or 785-838-4090.