



What Can Be Funded

- Construction or acquisition of a library building, renovation or rehabilitation of a library building
- The purchase and installation of equipment and furnishings are eligible costs **within the context** of a construction project application for a new building, building addition or substantially renovated/rehabilitated space.
- Acquisition, site grading of owned property in conjunction with a building project, and supervision/management of the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation.
- The purchase and installation of one or more generators.
- The program gives priority to projects that increase energy conservation, provide accommodation for computer equipment and new technologies (such as extending fiber connections to library buildings), and brings libraries into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The purchase of new technologies must be within the context of a construction project for a new building, building addition, or a substantial renovation/rehabilitation project. Requests for new computers that are not intimately connected to a construction/rehabilitation project are not eligible for funding from this program.
- Commissioner Regulations specifically exclude “routine maintenance” from eligible funding categories. Projects with emphasis on repair and/or building upkeep and tasks that need to be done on an annual basis are generally considered to be routine maintenance. This includes tasks that involve keeping any sort of mechanical, plumbing or electrical device in working order (preventive maintenance).
- “Repairs are not eligible expenses in construction law. That word needs to be removed. Perhaps words like upgrade, renovation or restoration can be used.”
- Architectural and engineering plans for locally approved new or ongoing projects, provided they are submitted in the same application as the relevant project, are eligible for funding. The work outlined in the architecture or engineering plans **MUST** be carried out as part of the same project. Those plans cannot be funded if the specified work is not included within the same project application and carried out within the same project timeframe. Speculative architectural and engineering plans are not eligible for funding under the State Aid for Library Construction Program.



How is funding allocated?

All qualified projects will be evaluated and ranked in priority order using the following five criteria in this order from most important to least important:

1. Brings the library up to the State Minimum Standards (Education Law 90.2);
2. Improves access to and use of building services by all library users, including those with physical disabilities;
3. Increases effectiveness of library service due to increased and/or improved building space and capacity;
4. Improves efficient utilization of the building, including such areas as energy conservation and increased staff efficiency (libraries are encouraged to support “green” projects that may result in buildings eligible for LEEDS certification);
5. Enables the library to provide and/or improve library services to geographically isolated or economically disadvantaged communities.

Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate readiness using the following four criteria in this order from most to least important:

1. A clear and detailed plan of action is in place and the project has a high probability of success; if the project cost is projected to be over \$35,000, the Library has demonstrated a plan to follow recommend bidding procedures per General Municipal Law § 104-b: Procurement policies and procedures (for further guidance refer to the NY Office of the State Comptroller’s Seeking Competition in Procurement guide);
2. Sufficient Matching funds have been raised or are on target to be raised;
3. Project is urgent and any delay would be detrimental to the community;
4. Planning has involved the community and has inspired support from the community