



BUILD AMERICA'S LIBRARIES ACT

S. 127 & H.R. 1581 would provide \$5 billion to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.

Introduced in the Senate on January 28, 2021, by **Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and cosponsors**, and in the House on March 3, 2021 by **Reps. Andy Levin (D-MI), Don Young (R-AK) and cosponsors**, the legislation would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Funding would be distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to state library agencies. State libraries would then award grants on a competitive basis to libraries in each state. Funding would be prioritized to libraries serving marginalized communities, such as high-poverty areas. Additionally, IMLS would provide funding directly to tribal libraries. Eligible facilities under the Build America's Libraries Act include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries that provide service directly to the general public.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible uses of the funding include:

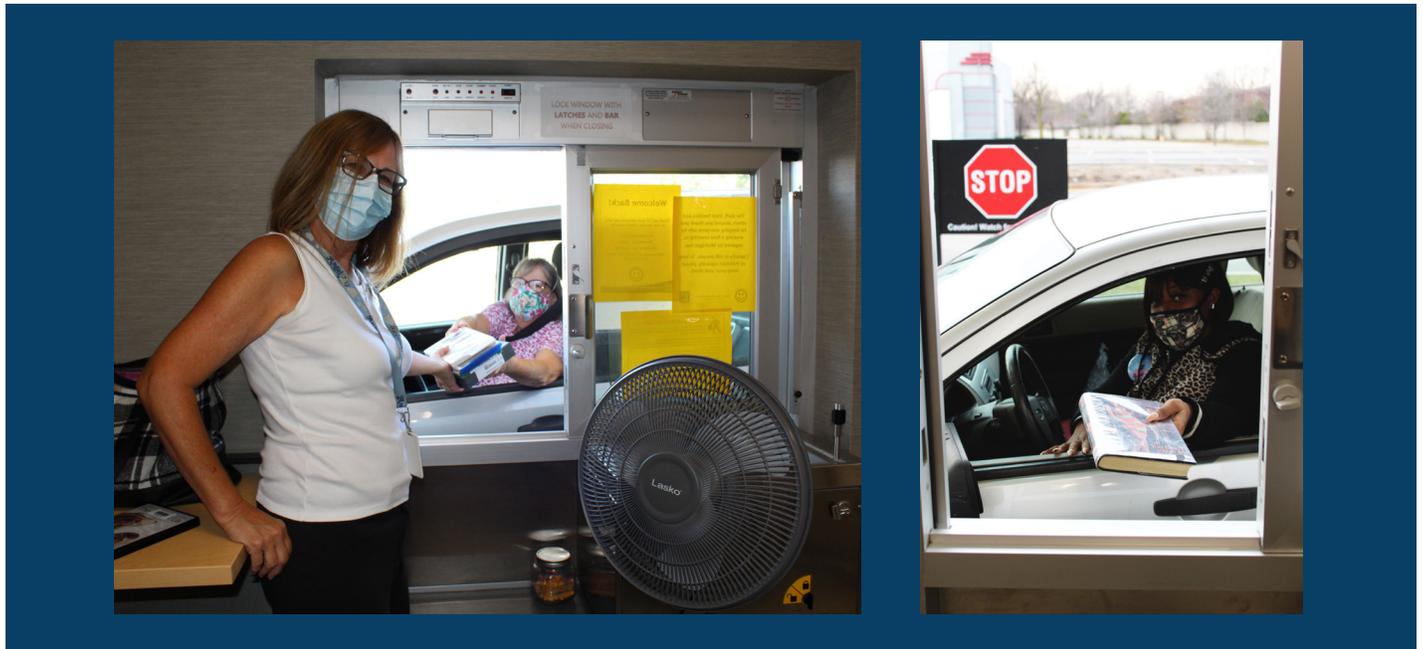
- conducting facilities condition assessments, needs assessments, and master planning;
- financing new library facilities; or
- making capital improvements to existing library facilities, including buildings, grounds, and bookmobiles.

Improvements to library facilities could include enhancements to:

- protect health and safety, such as preventing the spread of COVID-19;
- upgrade broadband equipment and technology hardware;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- abate hazards such as mold and lead; and
- increase environmental sustainability, such as energy efficiency.

REAL WORLD EXAMPLE

Pictured below, the [Clinton-Macomb Public Library's](#) South Branch in Michigan added a drive-up window service that not only meets COVID-19 safety guidelines, but assists people with disabilities by enhancing the library's overall accessibility. With the proposed federal funding in the Build America's Libraries Act, these essential features could become an industry standard for libraries nationwide.



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The Build America's Libraries Act has been endorsed by the following groups:

- AFL-CIO
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- American Institute of Architects
- American Society of Interior Designers
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
- Education Market Association
- International WELL Building Institute
- National Coalition for Literacy
- National League of Cities
- Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition
- Afterschool Alliance
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Library Association
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies
- International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
- National Association of Counties
- National Digital Inclusion Alliance
- National Summer Learning Association
- Society of American Archivists
- Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
- American Indian Library Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Association of Research Libraries
- Council of State Archivists
- International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
- National Coalition for History
- National Humanities Alliance
- North America's Building Trades Unions
- Urban Libraries Council

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To view the list of House and Senate cosponsors and up-to-date information on the Build America's Libraries Act, please visit ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries.