

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund: How Libraries Can Qualify



Established through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund provides **\$10 billion** in available funding for eligible states, territories, and tribal communities to ensure individuals' access to high quality broadband, the implementation of broadband infrastructure improvements, and the enhancement of the overall quality of education, work, and telehealth as a direct response to the ongoing public health emergency.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIBRARIES

All Capital Projects must meet the following three criteria: "(1) invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring; (2) designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and (3) designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it." Examples of eligible projects for libraries might include funding for internet device lending, digital literacy courses, or infrastructure modernization for increased broadband services.

The following projects are identified in the Capital Projects Fund Guidance as being eligible uses of Capital Projects Fund grant funding:

1

Broadband Infrastructure Projects:

"the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure designed to deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical speeds of 100Mbps so that communities have future-proof infrastructure to serve their long-term needs."

2

Digital Connectivity Technology Projects:

"the purchase or installation of devices and equipment, such as laptops, tablets, desktop personal computers, and public Wi-Fi equipment, to facilitate broadband internet access for communities where affordability is a barrier to broadband adoption and use."

3

Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects:

"the construction or improvement of buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring located in communities with critical need for the project."

WORKING WITH STATE LEADERS

Funds will be allocated from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to states. To receive their allocation, states must submit an initial application by December 27, 2021, then follow up with a more detailed grant plan by September 24, 2022. Libraries, through or in coordination with their state library association or state library, should reach out to their [state's governor](#) to suggest how libraries could be included in the state's grant plan. In addition, Tribal libraries can reach out to their Tribal governments; the deadline for Tribal governments to request funding is June 1, 2022.

TALKING POINTS

Libraries can make the case to their state government about why library renovations, broadband, and digital inclusion investments should be included in the state's grant plan. Here are some sample talking points that libraries can use when communicating potential Capital Projects to state leaders:

- Libraries have been at the forefront of keeping communities connected during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are continuing to play key roles in addressing education, employment, and health needs during the ongoing recovery.
- Our state's residents count on libraries for access to the technology and digital support that enables them to learn, work, and thrive.
- Library projects are explicitly eligible under the Treasury guidance for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.
- As established leaders in digital inclusion located in the heart of communities across the state, libraries are ready to leverage additional investments in their facilities, digital equipment, and broadband infrastructure.

RESOURCES

- [Application & Eligibility Requirements \(U.S. Department of Treasury\)](#)
- [Additional Information for Libraries \(National Digital Inclusion Alliance\)](#)
- *Questions? Please contact PPA's Gavin Baker at gbaker@alawash.org.*