

## Capital Budget Request

State Library

### Project Title

Public Library Technology Grants

### Contact:

Dawn La Valle (dawn.lavalle@ct.gov)

### Authorization Language:

Grants-in-aid to public libraries for library automation

### Justification:

Connecticut citizens depend more and more on the technology services provided by public libraries. Access to the internet and to new technology is critical for participation in modern society, yet so many citizens lack this access. This lack of access is commonly referred to as the "Digital Divide." In most communities, public libraries fill the critical role of providing the means, education and resources to gain access. But the resources needed to purchase and maintain this technology, and the training and help that must go with it, are usually beyond the means of local government.

Recently many Connecticut public libraries participated in the Edge Initiative, a national assessment tool developed by a national coalition of leading library and local government organizations. By using this tool, libraries identified activities required for the library to provide vital technology services in their communities.

47 Connecticut public libraries, varying in population from 3,500 to 125,000, completed the assessment tool which included specific questions on whether a particular activity designed to improve technology services is currently being done, and if not, whether the library needed to begin carrying out the activity. By answering these questions the public libraries identified essential services where they are deficient.

Public libraries have a critical need for equipment and software. Examples:

- 68% of libraries should increase the number of fully accessible computers for the disabled
- 61% of libraries should create a dedicated development environment for library staff to improve technology services
- 57% of libraries should offer video/audio recording and editing software for patrons
- 49% of libraries should provide multimedia production equipment for patrons
- 49% of libraries should have equipment to monitor and assess wireless network use
- 49% of libraries should have wireless printers for patron use
- 49% of libraries should offer photo editing software
- 47% of libraries should have "cold spares" to replace downed equipment

A critical need to provide digital literacy training for patrons. Examples:

- 60% of libraries should provide more training on creating multi-media
- 57% of libraries should provide regular training on research skills
- 57% of libraries should provide more training on health and wellness research
- 55% of libraries should provide more training on maintaining privacy & security online
- 45% of libraries should provide more training on eGovernment
- 45% of libraries should provide more training on Job-seeking skills

A critical need for library outreach. Examples:

- About 50% of libraries should work with community groups and government to make libraries community technology centers, especially during emergencies

A critical need for community assessment of technology needs. Examples:

- From 53 to 72% of libraries should use surveys, focus groups and other community assessment tools to find out what the technology needs of their communities are and determine how they can meet these needs.

#### Description:

Sec. 11-24d established a grant program whereby the state, through the State Library Board, may provide financial assistance in the form of grants to support the application of automation to the state's libraries. Grants shall be made to assist in the payment of expenses associated with: The purchase of necessary capital equipment and entrance fees to join the centralized automated library systems; changing library records from a manual systems to an automated system accessible to users of other libraries in the state; enlarging existing library data bases to accommodate increased library participation and technological innovations; providing connections to centralized automated library data bases; procurement of terminals and software for libraries to access shared bibliographic and source data bases; expansion of electronic mail service among the state's libraries; and establishment of communication systems to support cooperative information services for the public.

#### Analyst Recommendation

Request Yr1 \$125,000 Request Yr2 125,000

## Capital Budget Request

### State Library

#### Project Title

Museum of Connecticut History Renovations & Exhibit Upgrades

#### Contact:

Kendall Wiggin (kendall.wiggin@ct.gov)

#### Authorization Language

Renovations and exhibit upgrades to the Museum of Connecticut History and the installation of a permanent exhibit showcasing Connecticut's industrial heritage

#### Justification:

C.G.S. Section 11-6a authorizes the State Library Board to operate the Museum of Connecticut History to acquire, preserve, and exhibit collections and artifacts that interpret the state's culture and heritage. Over the years the Museum has acquire a substantial collection of machinery, tools and manufactured goods from a variety of Industrial companies whose names are synonymous with Connecticut. However, the State Library has not had the resources to appropriately display and interpret this important collection. A lack of funds has prevented the Museum's other exhibits from being updated in over 30 years and new technologies that would better engage new and younger audiences have not been utilized. Over 23,000 people visit the Museum each year. Upgrading the Museum and adding an state-of the art exhibit showcasing Connecticut's Industrial history would attract new visitors and encourage repeat visitation.

#### Description:

The State Library would construct and install a permanent exhibit to showcase the important Connecticut story of Connecticut innovations in industry. The State Library would update exhibits and incorporate 21st century technologies such as touch screens and high resolution monitors throughout the Museum. The State Library would also upgrade exhibit lighting using modern energy efficient museum lighting.

#### Analyst Recommendation

Request Yr1 750,000

## Capital Budget Request

### State Library

#### Project Title

Consolidation of the State Library Service Centers

#### Contact:

Kendall Wiggin (kendall.wiggin@ct.gov)

#### Authorization Language

Construction and equipping of an addition to the Library for the Blind and Handicapped for a consolidated Library Service Center

#### Justification:

Sec. 11-23a. states that the "State Library Board shall maintain a library service center in the Middlesex County area and in the Windham-Tolland County area, to serve the public libraries and public schools in each of said areas." In accordance with Sec. 11-23a. The State Library operates a Library Service Center out of Middletown (MLSC) and Willimantic (WLSC).

Additionally, Sec. 11-23b. (Formerly Sec. 10-28) states that the "State Library Board may establish and maintain library service centers to provide supplementary books and related library materials and services to public libraries and to public schools."

WLSC is a leased property ( 1320 Main St.) \$168,622 per year [rent \$9,406.35 (annual \$112,876.23) additional \$4,645.50/month for tenant improvements]. Lease ends 12/31/2015.

MLSC is a 10,387 square foot state owned property located at 786 South Main Street, Middletown. The age of the building is not known, but the one-story brick building was originally occupied by the State Library in 1976 and subsequently acquired through the exercise of a purchase option. The building needs a new HVAC system estimated by DPW in 2009 to cost \$250,00. The building is also scheduled for a total roof replacement estimated at \$500,000.

The State Library is moving away from an emphasis on book collections to support public and school libraries to an emphasis on training (both onsite and remotely). To accommodate the onsite and long distance training needs of the libraries in CT, the State Library needs a flexible space to provide multiple flexible meeting spaces; technology training labs; webinar and distance learning class rooms and production areas.

The State Library has also experienced a 25% reduction in overall staffing in the past 10 years which has made it difficult to adequately staff two facilities.

The LBPH is a state owned facility that was purposefully built in 1983. It is situated at 198 West Street, Rocky Hill on 5.76 acres along with the State Record Center.

The 1991 Comprehensive Facilities Plan for the State Library, prepared by HBW Associate, Inc. recommended that this building be expanded to accommodate other functions now housed at 231 Capital Ave. Twenty-four years later we believe that the facility should be expanded to create a modern library service center to serve the entire state.

Closing the two Library Service Centers and operating them out of a new more efficient facility will produce annual savings by eliminating the annual lease in Willimantic and the related operating costs as well as eliminate the need to spend an estimated \$800,000 improving the Middletown facility .

**Description:**

Construct a 12,000 sq. ft. one story addition to the **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** (LBPH) in Rocky Hill and expand the parking area. The State Library would close the two current Library Service Centers in Willimantic and Middletown and combine Library Service Center operations in Rocky Hill.

**Analyst Recommendation**

**Request Yr1      \$3,600,000**

## Capital Budget Request

### State Library

#### Project Title

Public Library Construction Program

#### Contact:

Tom Newman (tom.newman@ct.gov)

#### Authorization Language

Grants-in-aid to public libraries that are located in non-distressed municipalities as defined in Section 32-9 of the general statutes for construction, renovations, expansions, energy conservation, emergency power systems, accessibility for the disabled and emergency repair projects.

Grants-in-aid to public libraries that are located in distressed municipalities as defined in Section 32-9 of the general statutes for construction, renovations, expansions, energy conservation, emergency power systems, accessibility for the disabled, maintenance projects and emergency repair projects.

#### Justification:

##### Non-distressed municipalities

The State Library anticipates at least 9 major project requests over the next 2 years from non-distressed municipalities. The State Library awarded \$5 million in FY2014 capital funding to libraries in 9 non-distressed municipalities. Libraries in 11 non-distressed municipalities have notified the State Library that they will be applying for the \$5 million in FY2015 capital funding.

15 libraries in non-distressed municipalities have notified the State Library that they hope to seek grant funding for construction grants in FY2016 or FY2017. The estimated grant total for these requests would be \$9,975,000. 9 of the projects planned involve new buildings or expansions which indicate grant requests at the maximum of \$1,000,000 per project. The State Library expects to receive other smaller grant requests (typically between \$50,000 and \$200,000) from libraries responding to immediate needs for assistance. For example, 7 libraries have notified the State Library that they will be applying for smaller remodeling, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, and emergency system grants in FY2015.

##### Distressed municipalities

The State Library anticipates at least 5 major project requests over the next 2 years from distressed municipalities. The State Library awarded \$1.07 million in FY2014 capital funding to libraries in 2 distressed municipalities. Libraries in 6 distressed municipalities have notified the

State Library that they will be applying for grants in FY2015 totaling \$2.6 million. The funds currently available for funding are \$5.5 million.

The 4 libraries from distressed municipalities that have notified the State Library that they will be applying for construction grants in FY2016 and FY2017 have indicated that their requests will total \$3.2 million. As with non-distressed municipalities, we expect to receive smaller grant requests as libraries in distressed communities identify immediate construction needs.

**Description:**

C.G.S. Section 11-24c authorizes the State Library Board to make construction grants to public libraries equal to 1/3 of the total construction cost of the project, not to exceed one million dollars. Funds are used for construction, renovations, expansions, energy conservation, emergency power systems, and handicapped accessibility. The board may also grant an amount up to one-half of the emergency repair cost, not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars for each approved emergency repair project within the limits of the available funding for such project.

**Analyst Recommendation**

**Funding Request**

Yr1: \$5,000,000 – Non-distressed municipalities

Yr2: \$5,000,000 – Non-distressed municipalities

Yr1: none (current funding of \$5.5 available) – Distressed municipalities

Yr2: \$2,000,000 – Distressed municipalities