



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

The goal of Georgia Public Library Service's Planning and Construction group is to help communities around the state build new libraries or revitalize and renovate existing structures and to serve as a needed adviser and liaison between them and state funding agencies.

Planning and Construction staff provide consulting services to public library systems and communities by meeting with library administrators and staff, community leaders, state legislators and any additional stakeholders responsible for library development.

Additionally, GPLS provides support in the development and implementation of public library design standards, library-planning processes, feasibility determination, site analysis, and assistance in analyzing and coordinating project budget estimates.

The Planning and Construction program manages two major programs for funding libraries: Capital Outlay and Major Repair and Renovation (MRR).

Capital Outlay Grants

GPLS's Capital Outlay Grant program is a matching-funds program primarily for new library construction. It also serves to provide financial aid for full-facility renovations and large additions to existing facilities. Funding for the grants is allocated by state legislation and funded by General Obligation bonds through the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC).

Capital Outlay grants for new construction and capital improvements have been instrumental in helping 62 planned library projects become reality since 2005. An additional 11 recently funded projects are in development, and as of January 2018, 25 projects are awaiting future grants to move forward.

A typical Capital Outlay and Construction Grant timeline spans four to six years, from planning through design, construction and completion.

Each year, GPLS provides a detailed summary and ranking of proposed library construction projects to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the Georgia General Assembly, GSFIC and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (of which GPLS is a unit). GPLS and library staff continue to provide elected officials and other decision makers with any additional information they need as they consider which projects will receive funding, while keeping project stakeholders and advocates informed of each project's status. The latest version of the annual project summary booklet, called Capital Outlay Requests for Georgia's Public Libraries, is made available online at georgialibraries.org/lib/construction.

Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) Grants

GPLS's Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) Grant program is also a matching-funds program. Its aim is to assist library facilities with deferred maintenance projects and improvements. Typical projects range from structural issues to roof repair and HVAC replacement. It also assists with upgrades needed to help libraries meet the Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.

The MRR program requires a 50 percent commitment of the total project costs from the requesting library system's stakeholders. These funds are then matched by state funding if available that fiscal year. A 90 percent state match may be requested and approved for library facilities undergoing the repurposing of existing space for uses other than originally designed.

MRR projects are funded in one lump sum grant and then distributed to the requesting libraries through GSFIC. Since fiscal year 2013, MRR grants have brought more than \$13 million in much-needed aid to 219 library projects in 100 counties, ensuring these facilities will remain viable and vital in their respective communities.

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