

Library Vision Grant Guidelines

General Grant

Libraries provide essential services to communities by providing access to information, fostering literacy, and supporting lifelong learning and personal enrichment. The Library Vision grant program supports libraries of all types in the development of essential services and programs and increasing access to valuable collections. Through funding creative and impactful projects, the program strengthens the role of libraries as vital community hubs.

Grant Purpose & Requirements

Grant applications must describe the purpose of the project, the activities required to complete the project, the impact that the project will have on the community, and a clear evaluation plan with measurable goals. The project must be aligned with a Library Vision goal and the application must clearly articulate how the project aligns with the specific goal selected. The grant will not be funded if the project and the selected Library Vision goal are not aligned. Applicants are encouraged to review the [Library Vision Strategic Plan](#) for more information on the goals.

There are two opportunities to choose from. Please choose one. If you apply for both opportunities, both applications will be disqualified.

Grant amounts

- small grant: \$500–\$1,999
- large grant: \$2,000–\$10,000

Total funding available: \$120,000

Eligibility

Publicly funded North Dakota academic, public, K-12 school libraries, and Tribal Libraries are eligible for this grant.

Public libraries must meet or exceed the developing level of the Standards for Public Libraries.

Timeline

Application Period: February 16, 2026 - March 13, 2026

Award Date: April 1, 2026

Grant Period:

- April 2, 2026 – June 30, 2026 for small grants
- April 2, 2026 - October 31, 2026 for large grants

Final Reimbursement Due:

- July 15, 2026 for small grants
- November 15, 2026 for large grants

Final Report Due: 90 days after the grant period ends

Requirements

- All grant activities and purchases must be completed within the grant period
- All purchased items must be received before the grant period ends
- All required documents must be submitted through Counting Opinions
- Libraries must return the signed grant contract by the stated deadline
- Any changes to approved activities must receive approval by the State Library prior to implementation

Materials requirements:

- Traditional library materials must circulate locally and be available for Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
- Library of Things materials must circulate locally and may be made available for ILL at the library's discretion
- Makerspace materials are not required to circulate

All e-materials (e-books and e-audio) must be added to a shared collection and may not be added to an Advantage collection

Disbursement of funds

This is a **reimbursement-based grant**. Reimbursement requests must include:

- Copies of paid invoices and itemized receipts
- Proof of payment
- A completed Grant Reimbursement Request form

If multiple budget categories are included, expenses must be clearly identified by category.

Reimbursement options:

1. One reimbursement request submitted at the end of the project
2. Monthly reimbursement requests due by the 15th of each month for the previous month's expenses (one reimbursement per month)

Reporting

Libraries must submit the final grant report before the deadline to remain eligible for the next Library Vision grant opportunity.

Expenses

The list of eligible and ineligible expenses is not exhaustive. Contact a Library Specialist at ndsl-lb@nd.gov before applying with any questions.

Eligible expenses:

- Expenses directly related to the approved project
- Marketing and outreach supplies for the project
- Software, if clearly related to the project and completed within the grant period

Ineligible expenses

- Capital assets (land, vehicles, machinery, and construction)
- Contracts that include extended warranties, subscriptions or maintenance that extend beyond the grant period
- Food and beverages, taxes
- Staff salaries or benefits

Grant Writing Video Series

The State Library offers a series of short 3-5 minute videos available at [Niche Academy](#). We strongly recommend watching the short videos and believe doing so will increase the likelihood of a successful grant application.

The video topics are:

- Library Vision Overview
- Grant Writing Basics
- Project Narrative
- Impact and Sustainability
- Evaluation

Additional Information

Applicants should provide sufficient detail in the grant narrative about planned purchases; however, brand names are discouraged to allow substitutions if needed.

For assistance before or during the application process, please reach out to a Library Development Specialist at ndsl-lb@nd.gov.