

State Aid for Library Construction | ~~2024-2025~~ Board Priorities for Funding

To be considered for funding a project must:

1. Meet eligibility requirements as defined in [NYCRR Title 8 – Education §90.12](#); and
2. Be part of the library’s board approved, prioritized facility plan [[Sample Facility Plan Outline](#)] which is reported to MHLS through the Construction Needs Action Memo issued annually in April. If a library is breaking a large project into phases this must be itemized with a timeline within the facility plan;
- 2.3. Be from a library that is in good standing in terms of their compliance with both the submission of their Annual Report to the State and reporting requirements for any open State Aid for Library Construction projects; and
- 3.4. Provide for *at least one* of the following outcomes (points are awarded for each outcome the project addresses, so, the more the better!):
 - **An increase in services** through an increase in usable public space or increased staff efficiencies (e.g., new buildings, additions to current buildings, renovation of existing areas for new uses); and/or
 - **An increase in access** (e.g., compliance with the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#); improved broadband; optimization of a space to bring in a new or underserved population; creation of climate controlled space to ensure access to historically relevant materials); and/or
 - **Energy conservation in the context of a professional’s recommendations or with an [historic preservation element](#).** For the purposes of the MHLS board’s ranking, a “professional’s recommendation” will, at least, include the results of a Level 2 ASHRAE Energy Audit or comparable energy study which includes a comprehensive walk through of the facility, site staff interviews, utility bill analysis, fuel neutral, unbiased evaluation of potential low-cost/no-cost and capital improvement energy efficiency upgrades, and an energy study report that outlines potential energy and cost savings opportunities for your facility that has been conducted within the past five years. Libraries are expected to use ENERGY STAR certified products (e.g. Heating & Cooling equipment, water heaters, lighting, windows, doors, and insulation in order to earn this point. For roof replacements a measurable improvement in the R value of the roofing system should be demonstrated.; and/or

- **Disaster recovery** in the context of a substantial loss of access to library services due to a low probability-high consequence event(s) (e.g., fire, flood). This will apply to libraries: (1) located within a declared state or federal disaster area, or (2) not located within a declared disaster area if sufficient evidence documents a low probability-high consequence event resulted in substantial loss of access to library services. Within the grant narrative the library must adequately describe: a) length of forewarning; b) magnitude of impact; and c) duration of impact, meaning lack of access by the public to library services; and/or
- **Leadership in sustainable operations and design** in the context of either active participation in the [Sustainable Library Certification Program](#) or pursuit of a facility's certification through the [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program \(LEED\)](#); [Green Globes](#); [Living Building Challenge](#); [ENERGY STAR](#); [Net Zero Energy Building Certification](#) and/or [Passive House](#). A board-approved Climate Action Plan or demonstrable alignment with a municipal Climate Action Plan or Climate Smart Communities effort can also lead to earning this point.