

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0059987****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Anchorage - Girdwood Library Materials and Technology

State Funding Requested: \$25,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

This project provides \$25K for the Gerrish (Girdwood) Neighborhood Library. It will fund new materials (hard copies and downloadable books), an outdoor sign, equipment, and technology.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$104,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$79,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$25,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

MOA operating budget = \$78,000/year for Girdwood materials. Friends of the Library = \$1,000/year for Girdwood.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library is a popular and vital community resource. As one of the few public institutions in the community, it is a lifeline for residents, providing resources that are otherwise only accessible in Anchorage. It also serves as a center for civic life in Girdwood. This grant will help the Girdwood Library respond to its customers' most pressing needs for new materials, downloadable books, equipment, and improved technology access.

The Library faces a severe funding gap for its collection: with a materials budget of \$830K, APL is \$370K short of meeting the national standard of \$4.06 per capita. The Municipality is not able to match pace with community demand: library materials are so popular that the book bins at Loussac must be changed out every two hours and the Chugiak-Eagle River and Girdwood libraries have recently installed second book drops. As the popularity of e-books and downloadable audio books increases, the library now must provide these resources alongside traditional books. Downloadable materials are especially popular among Girdwood patrons who commute to work.

The computers at the Girdwood Library are always in high demand--students use them for research, adults use them for continuing education and job applications, and people of all ages use them to connect to the outside world. The Library often does not have enough computers to meet demand and has Internet speeds slower than most modern households. The Alaska State Library OWL project (Online with Libraries, broadband and video conferencing grant) provided four new laptops, a video conferencing system and the first year's connectivity. This state capital grant will help cover future connectivity and equipment costs.

Library use is on the rise, both in Anchorage and nationally. A recent national study found that the most popular activities among library users continue to be borrowing books and leisure reading: 28% of Americans borrow print books monthly and

59% borrow books at least once a year. These trends are reflected in Anchorage as well: circulation of books, DVDs and e-books reached 1.7 million in 2012. At the same time the Library's materials budget is decreasing, the annual cost of purchasing books and media is increasing 2-5% and electronic resources 5-7%. For example, APL was able to purchase 2,595 books from the vendor McNaughton in 2008; the same amount in 2010 purchased 1,978 books, a drop of 617 books. The Library's purchasing power is further diminished as it adds new formats (audio, downloadable books for PCs and Macs, Playaways) to keep up with technology.

This grant will also benefit libraries across the state. APL's interlibrary loan program and reciprocal borrowing privileges allow small Alaskan libraries to survive and thrive by offering their patrons access to a wide variety of materials beyond what they are able to keep on their own shelves. As a member of the joint catalog, APL materials are also accessed by Juneau Public Library, UAA/APU Consortium and UAA extended campuses. In addition to loaning materials, the library's purchases of downloadable audio books, music and movies are available to all residents of the state through the online Listen Alaska website.

Project Timeline:

All expenditures will primarily occur in 2013.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Anchorage Public Library, operations budget

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No