



The MPLCP

The Massachusetts
Public Library
Construction Program
(MPLCP)

Highlights of 2022 Regulations

2 Concurrent Grant Rounds

Public Library Projects

municipalities with census populations
of 2,500 and over

Small Population Public Library Projects

municipalities with census populations
of under 2,500

Eligibility

- Must not have received an MPLCP construction grant for a library project that obtained a certificate of occupancy within 30 years for main buildings and within 5 years for branches or multiple independents
- Must assure the library project will remain a free public library for a minimum of 30 years

Application Process

- **1 application**
- **No design work required**
- **Public Library Projects** – general application forms, library building program, municipal finance forms, information about at least two possible sites (including a map), and a conditions assessment of an existing building if interested in a renovation/expansion
- **Small Population Public Library Projects** – general application forms, municipal finance forms, information about at least two possible sites (including a map)
- **Joint Public Library and Shared Building projects** require additional documentation regarding population, spaces, services, and management plans
- **Municipal Officials** must attend workshops
- **Planning and Design Phase** local funding must be appropriated at the time of application

Review Process

> Public Library Projects	
Reviewed by tier (size determined by building program submitted at time of application)	Large Library (30,000+ sf)
	Medium Library (15,000-29,999 sf)
	Small Library (6,000-14,999 sf)
> Small Population Library Public Library Projects	
Reviewed as one group	Under 2,500 municipal census population
> Focus on need – facility, economic, and community	
> Site visit by subset of Independent Review Team	
> Competitive	
> Small waitlist	

continued

Planning & Design (P&D) Phase

- Both immediately funded and waitlisted projects complete this phase simultaneously
- Public Library Projects complete MPLCP Level of Design (between conceptual and full schematic)
- Small Population Public Library projects complete Library Building Program, Conditions Assessment (if needed), and MPLCP Level of Design
- Designs required to align with MA Climate Law for sustainability and resilience
- Designs use best practices from Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians
- Every iteration of design during this phase reviewed by library building specialists using criteria for upcoming Independent Review of Design
- Phase culminates in Independent Review of MPLCP Level of Design
- If project does not pass, given 2 months to redesign for another final review—no further reviews, disqualified if project fails to pass

Construction Phase

- Construction phase grant award calculated from MPLCP Level of Design estimate
- Local funding must be secured by the end of the fiscal year the provisional award is offered by the Board
- Waitlisted libraries can move forward at any time, knowing it may be a reimbursement grant

	Current Regulations	Proposed 2022 Regulations
Grant Rounds	One for P&D (run 2 years before construction grant round) One for Construction	Concurrent: Public Library Projects Small Public Library Projects (communities under 2,500)
Eligibility	20-year moratorium, 20-year horizon	30-year moratorium, 30-year horizon
# of Applications	Two: planning and design and construction	One: There will no longer be separate application processes for P&D and construction. A town or city will apply once, and we will take them through a P&D phase and a construction phase.
Application Components	Included design work	Does not include design work (less upfront expenditure)
Application Criteria	No requirement for municipal officials to attend workshops, no requirement to vote on P&D phase funding at time of application	Municipal officials required to attend workshops; required to hold vote for P&D funding at time of application
Review Process	Independent review team Informally Grouped by size Focus on design No site visit Not competitive: All or almost all projects awarded/waitlisted	Independent review team Formally grouped by size Focus on need Involves a site visit Competitive-Small waitlist
Planning & Design (P&D) Phase	Did not have to participate in MPLCP P&D grant to apply for construction grant	All accepted projects participate in P&D phase More involvement of library building specialists in the process Small population libraries receive more assistance
Construction Phase	Required a separate application Six months to secure local funding	Requires a successful independent review of the MPLCP Level of Design Secure local funding by end of the fiscal year the provisional award is offered by the Board

