

New Bond for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program



The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) provides funding for major capital projects for public libraries throughout the Commonwealth. The MPLCP has helped over 250 communities plan, build, renovate and expand their public libraries and serves as a model for other states.



New Bond and Annual Cap

- The MPLCP needs a new \$150 million bond authorization to run the competitive 2023-2024 grant round. Twenty-seven libraries throughout the Commonwealth have submitted letters of intent, and applications are due May 31, 2024.
- The MBLC is requesting that the annual cap, currently at \$25 million, increase \$1 million annually to keep pace with escalation, allowing the program to maintain the level of support to libraries offered throughout its existence.

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Why We Need the MPLCP

Massachusetts Public Libraries are busy places. Over 35 million children, teens and adults visited a public library in the past year, more than attended Red Sox, Bruins, and Patriots games combined. Yet many public libraries were built before computers existed and for populations much smaller than the ones they serve today. Recently opened libraries report between 30% and 40% increases in attendance and usage.*

MBLC Expertise

MPLCP Building Consultants combine their deep understanding of library services, library trends, and community needs with knowledge of inclusive, sustainable, and efficient design practices to help create a facility that revitalizes neighborhoods, is accessible to all, and fosters pride for generations to come.



**MPLCP's Transformational Impact Podcast*





"We're putting people first. More space means more people served in a way they need. It's spaces that create opportunity."

**East Forest Park Branch
of the Springfield Public Library**

"We have a lot of people who work from home at the library now, because it's comfortable. You can find your own space to sit in and the study rooms are there if you need to do a meeting or an interview. We're able to give people the experience that they want to have rather than the experience that the [old] building let them have."

Medford Public Library

"Our old meeting space was very small and it also housed our audiobook collection. Now with the availability of our new meeting room, our MakerSpace, and our children's studio, we've been able to greatly increase our outreach initiatives and programming opportunities for our patrons. It's been really wonderful to be able to meet that need that we didn't know, existed before."

Norwell Public Library



"There's like a wall of teens that comes down the street and goes in. It's really great. We have kids that are spending 2, 3, 4 hours here in the evening. It's a gamechanger."

Hadley Public Library



"We have a lot of services we're able to offer now that we couldn't offer in the previous space. We have an amazing children's room that brings all kinds of people in. There are all kinds of programs and all kinds of activities. We have STEAM activities in every area and a staff that is so excited to serve."

Woburn Public Library

"We were awarded LEED certification. We've just about double the size of the building, we're open 50% more than we were before, but our fuel bill is the same."

Monterey Public Library



Scan the QR code to learn more about the positive impact new libraries have on people and communities
Transformational Impact Series.