

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

State Funding Requested: \$31,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

This project provides funds to purchase materials for the Gerrish (Girdwood) Neighborhood Library collection.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$111,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$80,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$31,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

MOA operating budget = \$78,000/year for Girdwood materials. Friends of the Library and Anchorage Library Foundation = \$6,000/year for Girdwood materials.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Anchorage Public Library faces a severe funding gap for its collection: with a materials budget of \$780,445 in 2011, APL is \$556,118 short of meeting the national standard of \$4.58 per capita, determined in the APL Community Plan of 2009. 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 library is in the process of installing extra book drops. More and more residents, especially families, are turning to the Library to meet their recreational and academic reading. The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library seeks a grant to expand its collection and bring it into better alignment with patron demand. Specifically:

- Nonfiction for Juvenile and Adult: mountaineering, skiing, skijoring, ice and rock climbing, ice skating, camping (winter and summer), snow machining, snowshoeing, hiking, Southcentral hiking trails, avalanche awareness, aviation, kayaking and canoeing, sports fishing, parasailing and hang gliding, windsurfing
- Media: Books on CD

Additionally, the Library seeks \$6,000 for an additional book drop at the Girdwood Library. The current book drop is not enough to handle the high volume of materials that circulate through the library each day. When the book drop is full, materials often spill out to the ground or are left outside where they are damaged by the elements (which is frequent in a community with high levels of precipitation). The additional book drop will reduce the pressure on staff to leave other duties keep the book drop empty and will also protect one of the Library's most valuable assets, the materials.

Library use is on the rise, both in Anchorage and nationally. The OCLC Perceptions of Libraries, 2010 report¹ found that

37% of economically impacted respondents and 16% of nonimpacted respondents said they are using the library more often than they did before the economic downturn. Increased library use is substantially higher than any other lifestyle activity increase measured. 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. Despite a reduction in the number of materials offered, circulation continues to increase:

Materials Budget:

2001: \$1,003,730
 2002: \$863,180
 2008: \$948,080
 2009: \$805,455
 2010: \$780,000

Circulation:

2001: 1,293,013
 2002: 1,383,688
 2008: 1,589,657
 2009: 1,500,716
 2010: 1,642,303

In 2010, the Library began tracking circulation of electronic resources (downloadable books, databases, etc.), which averages 14,000/mth, or 170,000 year.

At the same time the 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. Public libraries increased expenditures on e-resources by 66% from 2003 to 2008, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

This grant will also benefit rural 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. 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 site.

Project Timeline:

September 2012-August 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