

Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Hanson Public Library Letter of Intent

Prepared by Hanson Public Library
for Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Letter of Intent - Construction Grant Round 2023-24

Submitted by Karen Stolfer

Submitted on 04/26/2023 9:54 AM Eastern Standard Time

Opportunity Details

Opportunity Information

Title

Letter of Intent - Construction Grant Round 2023-24

Description

This is the required Letter of Intent indicating the applicant's plan to apply for the 2023-24 Construction Grant Round

Awarding Agency Name

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Agency Contact Name

Andrea Bono-Bunker

Agency Contact Phone

617-725-1860 x 246

Agency Contact Email

andrea.bunker@mass.gov

Opportunity Manager

Andrea Bono-Bunker

Public Link

<https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/ca591b12-037c-4a68-9e2d-f5f9e02d2c01>

Funding Information

Funding Restrictions

Note: the award requested on this form is for the planning and design phase only

Award Information

Award Range

\$50,000.00 - \$125,000.00

Award Type

Competitive

Submission Information

Submission Window

12/12/2022 12:00 AM - 04/28/2023 4:00 PM

Submission Timeline Type

One Time

Submission Timeline Additional Information

No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted. A valid Letter of Intent is required for a municipality to apply for the construction grant round

Other Submission Requirements

Only one submission per municipality will be accepted.

Technical Assistance Session

Technical Assistance Session

Yes And Required

Session Date and Time

Conference Info / Registration Link

Eligibility Information

Eligibility Type

Public

Eligible Applicants

- City or township governments

Additional Eligibility Information

Cities and towns in Massachusetts with public libraries certified to receive State Aid to Public Libraries are eligible

Additional Information

Additional Information URL

<https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/construction/index.php>

Additional Information URL Description

Visit this link for more information about the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program

Award Administration Information

State Awarding Agency Contacts

If you have any questions, contact the MBLC Library Building Specialists:

Andrea Bono-Bunker
andrea.bunker@mass.gov

Lauren Stara
lauren.stara@mass.gov

Project Information

Application Information

Application Name
Hanson Public Library Letter of Intent

Award Requested
\$100,000.00

Total Award Budget
\$100,000.00

Primary Contact Information

Name
Karen Stolfer

Email Address
kstolfer@hansonlibrary.org

Address
132 Maquan Street
Hanson, MA 02341

Phone Number
(781) 293-2151

Project Description

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program - 2023-24 Letter of Intent

Municipality

Name of Municipality
Town of Hanson

Municipal Contact Name
Lisa Green

Municipal Contact Email Address
lgreen@hanson-ma.gov

Municipal Contact Telephone Number (primary)
781-293-2131

Municipal Contact Telephone Number (secondary)

Municipal Contact Mailing Address
Hanson Town Hall
542 Liberty Street
Hanson, MA 02341

Population

DLS Municipal Census Population

[Right-click on this link](#) to open the DLS website in another tab and look up your city/town's population; then enter it into the box below:

Municipality's Population
10674

Library

Name of Library
Hanson Public Library

Library Director Name
Karen Stoffer

Library Director Email Address
kstoffer@hansonlibrary.org

Library Director Telephone Number (primary)
781-293-2151

Library Director Telephone Number (secondary)

Library Mailing Address
Hanson Public Library
132 Maquan Street
Hanson, MA 02341

Library Physical Address, if different

Eligibility

Previous Grants and Eligibility

Applicants that have received a previous construction grant through the MBLC, please note:

For a construction project for the same building, the 30-year moratorium period is determined by comparing the date of the final Certificate of Occupancy in the previous project to the potential date of a Board award vote, which is October 2024.

For an Applicant applying for a different multiple independent public library or a different branch library, a maximum of one construction grant award will be made every five years. The moratorium period of five years will be determined by comparing the date of the final Certificate of Occupancy in the previous project to the potential date of a Board award, which is October 2024.

Previous grants

Certification

Municipality is certified or has received a waiver in the FY23 State Aid program

Strategic Plan

Library will complete, adopt, and submit a current Strategic Plan to the MBLC by October 1, 2023

Action Plan

Library will submit an Action Plan for FY25 by December 1, 2023

Public Library Buildings in the Municipality

- Municipality has one library building
- Municipality has a main library and at least one branch
- Municipality has more than one independent public library

Project Information

Library Type

Main Library

Project Type

Stand-alone building

Preliminary Statement of Need (in 600 words or less, describe the service and facility needs that will be addressed in the project. Do not include needs based on deferred maintenance of the existing building)

The Hanson Public Library's current facility opened to the public in 1991. The Library occupies approximately 8,000 square feet of an 11,000 square foot building that is shared with the Hanson Senior Center. Prior to the building's construction, the Town made an unsuccessful attempt to secure state funding through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. The grant application review team commented that the "library is not planned for twenty years" and the "children's area is not large enough." The now 33-year-old building severely constrains the Library's ability to meet the needs of residents and fulfill its mission of enriching and strengthening the community.

Families with young children are an important user group for the Library, but the Children's Room is not sufficient to adequately provide desired services. The tall shelving units create a barrier to access of reading materials; the room's design fails to allow for technologies that foster early literacy and promote sensory engagement; storytime participants are frequently cramped in the small space; and direct staff supervision of the area is impossible.

Inadequate meeting spaces pose a challenge for Library programming. The majority of events are held in the uninviting medium-sized Community Room shared with the Senior Center and local organizations. Programs for larger audiences must be held off-site at a busy town-owned recreation hall while small groups must rely on the availability of rooms that house the Library's public computers and local history collection. These very limited meeting room spaces cause unwelcome scheduling constraints.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in middle school students using the Library as a gathering place. The Teen Lounge quickly reaches capacity as it only holds about a quarter of the students typically present at any given time, leading to significant competition for its use. The room also lacks adequate space for activities of interest to this age group, such as gaming and maker programs.

One of the goals stated in the Library's current Strategic Plan is to be a resource for technology and digital content and assist people with incorporating technology into their lives. However, the Library's construction predates the installation of infrastructure to accommodate today's varied technology needs. Access to electrical outlets and internet connection points is limited, and the general lack of space in the building inhibits opportunities for the Library to explore innovations in information science and integrate emerging technologies for patrons into its offerings.

Another goal of the Library is to provide a welcoming and comfortable environment which enables people to pursue their interests. The building's configuration and limited square footage make achieving this goal very difficult. Library space is overwhelmed by necessary furnishings and fixtures, and comfortable leisure seating is sparse. The absence of a clear path to staff is particularly noticeable upon entering, attributable to the design of the built-in circulation desk, which obscures staff from view and prohibits them from seeing who is entering the Library. The desk is also too high to properly serve children and wheelchair users.

As previously mentioned, the Library shares a building with the Senior Center. They are also in dire need of additional space to serve the Town's growing population of elderly residents. The Library is applying for a stand-alone building but may consider a shared building.

The current facility has a great deal of aesthetic value which patrons clearly appreciate, but the building's inflexible design and lack of space do not support the Library's mission and no longer satisfy the needs of Hanson's residents for library service.

Municipal Support

Upload a letter on official municipal letterhead signed by municipal and library officials stating support for the intention to apply

Hanson Letter of Intent Municipal Support Letter.pdf

Application Workshop

Who will represent the library at the Application Workshop on [date]? Library Director or senior staff required; additional representation encouraged

Karen Stoffer, Library Director
Corinne Cafardo, Trustees Chair

Email addresses of all library representatives listed

kstoffer@hansonlibrary.org
bikeriding30@gmail.com

Who will represent the municipality at the Application Workshop on [date]? A municipal official with responsibility for planning and/or financial decision making for capital projects is required; additional representation encouraged

Lisa Green, Town Administrator
Tony De Frias, Town Planner

Email addresses of all municipal representatives listed

lgreen@hanson-ma.gov

tdefrias@hanson-ma.gov

Application Information

Please visit the MPLCP Construction Grant page on the MBLC website for application information and materials

<https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/construction/construction.php>