Montana State Library
Funding Guide

Grant Reference Guide

Overview

The purpose of this guide is to provide a convenient list of grants, resources, and references in a single document. The list has been compiled from webinars, e-bulletins and funding guides that have been created as part of the Montana State Library grant outreach and technical assistance program.

Government Websites

MONTANA

Montana Broadband Office
Recipient of Digital Equity Act funds to implement the Montana Digital Opportunity Plan.   There may be some programs for local libraries.
ConnectMT (Broadband) https://connectmt.mt.gov

Montana Department of Commerce

- **Community Development Block Grant – Planning Grants**
  Funds for Preliminary Architectural Reports
  https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Planning-Activities

- **Montana Community Development Grant Program – Public Facility Grants**
  Funds for public facilities for areas that serve for low to moderate income households
  https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Public-and-Community-Facilities

- **Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program**
  Funding for improvements to library buildings that are over 50-years old and of historic significance.
  https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Montana-Historic-Preservation-Grant

- **Montana Main Street Program & Grants**
  Funds projects in communities that participate in the Main Street program. Libraries located in downtown areas may qualify for historic preservation, plazas, and related improvements.
  https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Montana-Main-Street-Program/

Montana State Library
- Links to Grant websites - https://msl.mt.gov/about/grants/
- Hot Spot Lending Program - https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/hotspotlendingprogram
- Digital Equity Planning Guide for Libraries - https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/library_development/consulting/DEPlanningGuide2024.pdf

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Montana DPPHS has been selected to administer this grant to pilot clean air in community buildings during wildfire season.
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/airquality/index
  https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/wildfire-smoke-preparedness-community-buildings-grant-program

- Montana DPPHS maintains a list of Area Agencies on Aging and senior centers.   These organizations may be potential partners for programs regarding digital literacy for seniors.
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aging/AreaAgenciesonAging

- Montana Telecommunications Access Program – Provides outreach, assistance and equipment to help workplaces and businesses make accommodations for visually and hearing impaired. Libraries can be potential partners.
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/mtap/index

- iCanConnect is to help people stay connected with s free equipment and training to people with both significant vision and hearing loss who meet disability and income guidelines.
  https://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/montana/

Montana Department of Labor & Industry
Workforce Development – Can be used by non-profit libraries to offset training for library staff.
https://wsd.dli.mt.gov/employers/incumbent-worker-training-program/

Montana Board of Investment
Assist with establishing bonds for public improvements and has a loan program.
https://investmentmt.com/

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Technical assistance and grants to address issues regarding health hazards and brownfields such as asbestos, lead paint, lead pipe and soil contamination.
https://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/index

Montana Department of Natural Resources
Various grants for outdoor site improvements such as Arbor Day grants for tree planting, pollinator gardens, conservation education. Some grants are through the local conservation district.
https://dnrc.mt.gov/Grants-and-Loans/

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Construction and maintenance of trailside and trailhead facilities. If the trail is adjacent to library could pay for bike racks, benches, landscaping and other improvements that serve both the trail and library.
https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/grant-programs/trail-stewardship

Montana Arts Council
Has various grants programs for arts and cultural programs in libraries.
https://art.mt.gov/

Montana State Historic Preservation Office – Provides information on historic districts and historic sites in the state.   If the library is a historic building, it may qualify for certain funding programs.
https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/

Montana Department of Emergency Services
Grants for hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness.
https://des.mt.gov/

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Association
Grants for projects that are identified in county hazard mitigation plan to respond to emergency situation.   Libraries may qualify if they partner with a county Dept. of Emergency Services.
https://des.mt.gov/Grant-Programs/BRIC-Program

National Endowment for the Humanities
Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions — such as libraries— improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections.
https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions

National Telecommunication and Information Administration
Grants for rural broadband and digital inclusion.
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs

USDA Community Facilities Grant
Grants and loans for capital improvements for rural libraries.
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program

National Park Service – Save America's Treasures Grant
Historic Preservation grants for libraries located in historic buildings.
nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/save-americas-treasures-grants.htm.

Non-Profit/Foundation Grant Websites

Below is a list of foundations and companies with giving programs in Montana.   Often corporate giving programs target grants to non-profits in the communities where they have operations. Grants typically have specific focus areas.   The following websites have grant eligibility guidelines.

Albertsons/Safeway - http://albertsonscompaniesfoundation.org/get-funded/

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2024/2024-challenge.html

Adult Literacy Programs - https://www.wishyouwellfoundation.org/

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana - https://www.bcbsmt.com/company-info/community-involvement/community-giving

Children Books Project Grants - https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/

Family Literacy Programs - https://believeinreading.org/

First Interstate Bank - https://www.firstinterstatebank.com/company/commitment/grants.php

Institute of Museum and Library Services https://www.imls.gov/grants/grant-programs

Montana Community Foundation – Administers giving for local foundations.
- https://mtcf.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant
- https://mtcf.org/about/about-us/local-community-foundations

Montana State University – Grant Resources website
https://www.lib.montana.edu/tcli/grants.html?msclkid=aa44824eab8b11ec9132a2ccd4c93290

Penguin House Grants for Small and Rural Libraries : https://www.arsl.org/prh-grant

Pilcrow Foundation https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/childrens-book-project-program-grants/

Steele-Reese Foundation - https://steele-reese.org/program-areas#rural_conservation_preservation

Stockman Bank - https://www.stockmanbank.com/about-us/community

T-Mobile Foundation - t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants

Town Pump Foundation - https://www.townpumpfoundation.com/application

Walgreens - https://www.walgreens.com/topic/about/community/companyguidelines.jsp

Wells Fargo - https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/community-giving/

Other Resources

Credit unions often have community grant programs. For a list of credit unions:
https://banking.mt.gov/Credit_Unions/CU_Home

Electric cooperatives often have community giving programs and offer energy audits.   For a list of electric cooperatives in Montana: https://www.mtco-ops.com/about-us/members-affiliates/

Public & Non-Profit Agencies – Technical Assistance

Economic Development Agencies – Regional agencies prepare Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and often provide grant writing assistance.
https://eda.gov/resources/directory/states/mt.htm

Montana Cooperative Development Center - Many local cooperatives have community grants. To find out about cooperatives in your county contact. https://mcdc.coop/

Montana Library Association – Continuing Education Opportunities and library news.
https://www.mtlib.org/

Montana Telecommunications Association – Links to broadband provider websites and other broadband resources. https://www.broadbandmt.com/

National Center for Appropriate Technologies – Free energy audits for libraries.
https://www.ncat.org/energy/energy-services/energy-audits/

Zero to Five - Working with communities on child care issues. Libraries are potential partners for child care space and early literacy programs. https://zerotofive.org/

Planning Resources

Montana State Library – Strategic Planning Resources
https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/library_development/consulting/planning/

Montana State Library - Library Directors Handbook (pg. 17)
https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/library_development/Directors/Directors

Digital Inclusion: https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/news/latest-news/ntias-role-implementing-broadband-provisions-2021-infrastructure-investment-and

Conducting Broadband Assessments for Libraries, https://internet2.edu/community/community-anchor-program/cap-library-resources/toward-gigabit-libraries/

National Digital Inclusion Alliance
https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/toolkit_042913.pdf

National Telecommunications Information Administration -Broadband Adoption
https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/NTIA_2013_BroadbandUSA_Adoption_Toolkit.pdf

Acronyms

ADA – American with Disability Act.   Federal legislation with requirements for providing accessible spaces and improvements for persons with disabilities or mobility limitations.

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant Program – Grant program may provide funding for preliminary architectural reports and improvements related to American with Disabilities Act.

CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Prepared by regional economic development agencies and may include policies to support library improvements.

CIP – Capital Improvement Plan (Usually prepared by cities & counties. May include libraries.)

DES – Department of Emergency Services.   Most counties have a Department of Emergency Services that prepare "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans

DEQ – Montana Department of Environmental Quality administers brownfield grants for asbestos, lead paint, brownfield assessments and other similar programs.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency. Administers grants for disaster preparedness.

IIJA – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – Federal Legislation passed in 2021 with funding for rural broadband and digital equity/inclusion programs.

LAN – Local Area Network – Internal library computer network.

MCDC – Montana Cooperative Development Center. Non-profit organization that provides economic development supports to cooperatives.

NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Administration - Digital Equity & Broadband grants and programs

PAR – Preliminary Architectural Report – Required by for certain grant programs to fund public facilities

PER – Preliminary Engineering Report – Required for certain grant programs to fund water & sewer

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office. Information on historic districts, historic sites. Administers the Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program.

TIF – Tax Increment District. Locally created district for urban renewal.   If library is located within a TIF District, the municipality may be able to allocate funds to offset capital costs for improvements such as parking, façade, sidewalks, historic preservation and other items that meet the goals of the district.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture (Rural Development Community Facility Grants)

WAN – Wide Area Network – Network that connects library to the Internet.   Prepared by: