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Libraries Receive Supplemental Grants

Charleston, WV. The West Virginia Library Commission has awarded supplemental grants totaling \$134,828 to eight public libraries across the state for construction and renovation projects:

• Belington Public Library	\$10,000
• Cabell County Public Library	\$19,663
• Keyser-Mineral County Public Library	\$10,000
• Mountaintop Public Library	\$10,000
• Pleasants County Public Library	\$20,165
• Pocahontas County Free Libraries (Durbin Branch)	\$20,000
• Shepherdstown Public Library	\$25,000
• Valley Head Public Library	\$20,000

With West Virginia's public libraries needed more now than ever to help West Virginians prepare for work and find it, libraries across the state were encouraged to apply for the supplemental grants. Libraries were invited to submit proposals for projects in the areas of construction, programming, collections and equipment, with construction being the top priority.

In order to provide significant assistance, the Library Commission set a \$10,000 minimum for construction or renovation grants. Requests in this category alone totaled almost \$500,000 and did not include requests for new facilities. Karen Goff, Secretary of the Library Commission, said "The number of applications for these grants illustrates the needs, activities and aspirations of public libraries across the state."

No federal or state funds are available specifically for construction and renovation.

The projects funded by the supplemental grants vary in scope and scale. Pocahontas County Free Libraries will add wiring, plumbing and fire alarms to a new building that has been under construction for a few years. "We're renting a location in Durban right now, but it's incredibly small," said Director Vicky Terry. "We're excited about the supplemental grant," said Terry. "When we get some money, we do something in the new library and get closer to moving in."

Mountaintop Public Library in Tucker County will use its supplemental grant for a much-needed new roof. Among other problems, leaks in the old roof have caused the ceiling to grow mold and fall in places. Valley Head Public Library in Randolph County will connect its original building to a new addition behind it. In an email to Secretary Goff, Valley Head Director Douglas Wood wrote, "We thank you and the town of Valley Head thanks you so very much."

The West Virginia Library Commission encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians.