



Grants & Awards

The new "key" to library funding



Big Read Supports Community Reading Projects

The Big Read is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2009 and June 2010. Organizations selected to participate in the Big Read will each receive a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, financial support to attend an orientation meeting in Minneapolis on June 16-17, 2009, educational and promotional materials, an Organizer's Guide for developing and managing Big Read activities, inclusion of the organization and activities on the Big Read Web site, and the prestige of participating in a highly visible national initiative. Approximately four hundred organizations of varying sizes across the country will be selected for this cycle. This is a "matching" grant.

The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture by bringing together partners across the United States to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Complete program information is available at the Big Read Web site: <http://www.neabigread.org/>

Deadline: February 3, 2009

NEH Planning and Implementation Grants

The Division of Public Programs at the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities funds humanities projects that are intended for broad public audiences at museums, libraries, historic sites and other historical and cultural organizations.

New application guidelines are now posted on the NEH Web site at <http://www.neh.gov/>

Grants support interpretive exhibitions, reading or film discussion series, historic site interpretation, lecture series and symposia, and digital projects. NEH especially encourages projects that offer multiple formats and make creative use of new technology to deliver humanities content.

Applications will also be accepted at both deadlines for [Interpreting America's Historic Places](#) grants, which promote public understanding of American history through interpretation of significant American places.

Deadline: January 21, 2009

ICMA Public Library Innovation Grant

This grant is only available to public libraries — association libraries are not eligible.

ICMA Public Library Innovation Grants, made possible through a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are available to local governments that develop innovative ways to actively engage their public libraries in meeting specific community goals. The grants will be anchored by a partnership between the office of the chief administrative officer (city, county, or town manager) and the public library, recognizing the importance of the manager/librarian partnership in creating and sustaining change and innovation. A series of leadership workshops and project coaching will help grantees solidify the partnership, ensure the short-term success of the project, and secure new resources to support the long-term use of libraries in addressing community priorities and issues.

ICMA will provide a total of \$500,000 in Public Library Innovation Grants. Individual grants will range from \$20,000 to \$60,000. Only U.S. local governments and libraries are eligible to apply. Applications, guidelines, and a budget template are available at www.icma.org/publiclibrarygrants. Please contact Molly Donelan at mdonelan@icma.org for more information.

Deadline: January 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EST



Is your library in need of books or the funding to purchase books?

Libri Foundation Grants for Children's Books

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries in the United States through its BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program. The Foundation awards grants three times a year.

The library director/library manager of each library participating in the BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program selects the books her library will receive from a booklist provided by the Foundation. The 700-plus fiction and nonfiction titles on the booklist have been judged as outstanding or highly recommended by recognized authorities in the library and education fields and have been published in the last 3 years or are classics. The guidelines and application can be found here: <http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>.

The Foundation will match any amount of money raised by your local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, your library could receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books (about 70 books). Local sponsors have five months (or longer, if necessary) after their library has been selected as a participant in the BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program to raise the matching funds.

Deadlines: Annually, January 15th, April 15th, and August 15th

"We the People" Bookshelf Grant

The ALA Public Programs Office is pleased to partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the sixth We the People Bookshelf project. Part of the NEH's We the People program, the Bookshelf encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history. This year's theme, "Picturing America," explores the premise that a nation's literature, as well as its visual art, can be a window on its character, ideals and aspirations. Public libraries are invited to apply online now at <http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf>. In spring 2009, NEH and ALA will select 4,000 libraries to receive the 17 books for young readers, plus three works in Spanish translation, as well as bonus materials for readers of all ages. Selected libraries will be required to use the Bookshelf selections in programs for young readers in their communities.

To view the list of books included in the We the People Bookshelf on "Picturing America," or to access programming ideas for your application, visit <http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf>. With questions, please contact the ALA Public Programs Office, publicprograms@ala.org.

Deadline: January 30, 2009





Local Foundations (continued)

The John Ben Snow Foundation <http://www.johnbensnow.com/jbsf>

The John Ben Snow Foundation provides funding to tax-exempt organizations (501c3) in Central and Northern New York State.

Grants have been made in the past in the following program areas: Arts and Culture, Community Development, Education, Environment, Historic Preservation, and Journalism.

Proposals seeking funds for new or enhanced programs, one-time, short-term grants to sustain a program until funding is stabilized, matching grants used to encourage the participation of other donors, and "last dollars" towards a capital campaign are given preference.

There are no minimums or maximum grant amounts; however, most grants range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Letters of intent must be submitted and received by January 1st.

Pratt-Northam <http://prattnortham.thrivingdesigns.com/>

Pratt-Northam grants are provided to only not-for-profit organizations located between Boonville and Carthage. Thousands of dollars are given each year to various organizations in order to make the Black River Valley, from Boonville in the South to Carthage in the North, a better and more exciting place to live.

If you wish to apply for a grant from the Pratt-Northam Foundation, you are welcome to contact Tom Yousey at ttlyousey@frontiernet.net for a grant application. They have also provided a printable form on the Internet. Merely print the [application](#) and send it to the address listed on the top of the form.

The Wal-Mart Foundation <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/>

The Wal-Mart Foundation offers two possibilities for funding: The State Giving Program and the Community Giving Program. Only organizations with a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are eligible to request funding under either program.

The State Giving Program

- submit an application online
- only eligible to receive one grant within a fiscal year (February 1 – January 31).
- Minimum grant size for this program is \$5,000.

They are no longer accepting applications for the State Giving Program because New York state has exhausted its State Giving Program budget for this fiscal year. Updated program information, as well as the 2009 application submission deadlines, will be posted on their website at the beginning of February 2009. Please check back at that time to review any changes in the program's guidelines or funding priorities.

The Community Grant Program

(allows local facilities to support needs within the communities Wal-Mart does business by providing grants less than \$5,000)

- Submit an application online or obtain one at your local store
- Award stipulations vary for each area Wal-Mart (i.e. the Watertown Wal-Mart has a maximum grant of \$1,000)

You can learn more about requesting a Community Grant from your local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club as well as the award limits by speaking with the facility manager at your local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club Stores or contacting the Community Involvement Coordinator at the location closest to you.



December/
January
2009

Grant Opportunities

North Country Library System - 22072 County Route 190 - P.O. Box 99 - Watertown, NY 13601 - www.nclsweb.org



Since 1929, the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) has been helping make good things happen in northern New York and in the libraries within our communities. NNYCF's generosity and commitment to improve our communities' way of life has led to the funding of many projects for the North Country Library System and our member libraries such as:

- "Matching-funds" to aid libraries in the purchase of computers under the Gates Grant
- Support for the renovation and reconstruction projects at the North Country Library System, Flower Memorial Library, and the Reading Room Association of Gouverneur
- Rehabilitation of the Depauville Free Library after their tragic fire

Local Foundations...finding funding in your communities!

The Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) accepts grant requests to support the work of non-profit tax exempt organizations in or serving Jefferson and/or Lewis Counties. (Non-profit organizations serving the Gouverneur area may submit requests for grants from the A. Eleanor Jackson Fund).

The Foundation encourages proposals for programs that are responsive to changing community needs in the areas of health, human services, education and cultural affairs. Grants are made only for capital items and for seed money for new agencies, or new projects by established agencies. The Foundation does not fund general operational costs or pay off deficits.

If you wish to submit a grant proposal, you must first contact the Foundation by letter, phone or email to provide a brief summary of your program and needs and to request grant application guidelines. After an initial discussion with the director of NNYCF, libraries would then submit a written application.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nnycf.org/grantguidelines.asp>

**Have you tried to find funding in your community?
Contact local foundations today!**
(More local foundations can be found on the back page)

If your library has grant information or grant acquisition stories to share in *Grant Opportunities*, please contact Dawn Vincent at NCLS: 782-5540 or dvincent@ncls.org