

Action Grants Announcement

Anticipated Publish Date: May 22, 2026

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) is pleased to announce Action Grants, a six-month competitive program supporting community-driven services in public, academic, school, and correctional institution libraries. These grants offer up to \$10,000 for high-impact projects that address local needs, strengthen partnerships, and build library capacity.

These grants advance OCL's priority of [Libraries as Community Catalyst](#), supporting libraries in understanding and responding to community needs through deep engagement, effective partnerships, and strategic resource sharing. Additional information is available in the [Office of Commonwealth Libraries Five Year Plan](#).

Projects may include but are not limited to community-focused services, professional development for library staff, trustees, or volunteers, planning studies, community-responsive collections, programming supplies and materials, outreach initiatives, accessibility upgrades, and technology enhancements.

Action Grants Overview:

- Total funds available: \$250,000
- Maximum award: Up to \$10,000 per application/project
- Grant period: January 2027 – June 2027 (*six-month contract period*)
- Funding source: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

Application Requirements and Limits:

- Applications are submitted by legal entities, and each application must represent a clearly defined and distinct project.
- The maximum request is \$10,000 per application.
- All applications will be evaluated through a competitive peer review process using an established scoring rubric.
- Organizations may submit multiple applications, but should be aware that:
 - Each application will be reviewed and scored independently.
 - Applications submitted by the same organization will compete against one another.
 - Funding decisions will be based on the relative strength of each application in comparison to all other submissions.

Eligible institutions include:

- Independent public libraries
- District library centers
- Federated library system member
- Federated library system administrative units
- Public school libraries or media centers
- Private school libraries or media centers
- Academic libraries
- State correctional institution libraries

IMPORTANT:

This year, all applicants **must** submit the [Intent to Apply Form](#) before submitting a full application. The Intent to Apply form collects essential administrative information so eligibility can be confirmed early, and routing delays can be reduced. Applications must be submitted by the legal entity responsible for grant management, using its organizational identifiers (AUN, UEI, FEIN, and SAP Vendor Number).

Because this is a change from previous years, we encourage interested parties to attend open office hours with any questions they may have. These will take place on the following dates; no registration is required.

Action Grants Open Office Hours:

Thursday, May 27, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/293243996975443?p=FlHyS5XG5ecLJKyIPk>

Meeting ID: 293 243 996 975 443

Passcode: 9xu9TB7G

Wednesday, June 3, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/289041890930559?p=eF6PFCnHtSpHLbBerz>

Meeting ID: 289 041 890 930 559

Passcode: 9mW3xi7H

Applicants who do not submit the Intent to Apply form will not be eligible to apply for a FY26-27 Action Grant.

Action Grant applications will be available in [eGrants](#) on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, and will remain open for one month, closing at noon on July 9, 2026. The Intent to Apply form will remain open through June 30. Please continue to follow the Compendium as additional application details will be forthcoming.

Don't forget to review the [Checklist for Applying to Grants](#) Compendium article to ensure you have all the details needed to submit the Intent to Apply form and application successfully.

Please submit questions to Bureau of Library Development's [Contact Us Form](#), selecting "Grants" as the category.

This project is made possible by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

The Bureau of Library Development (BLD) in the Office of Commonwealth Libraries supports libraries and library services for Pennsylvanians through the administration of state and federally funded programs and grant opportunities including [LSTA](#) (Library Services and Technology Act), [Library Access](#), [LAMP](#) (Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians), the [Public Library Subsidy](#), and [Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities](#). BLD also provides advisory services, professional development, and continuing education for library staff at public, school, academic, and special libraries.

The [Compendium](#) is BLD's primary communication channel. If you don't already subscribe, please do so to ensure you receive the most up-to-date information.