

Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Public Library Report

July 2026



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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Introduction

Act 50 of 1993 established the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. The General Assembly, by establishing funds to make critical repairs, improve existing spaces, or construct new buildings, has ensured better public library facilities to provide vital library services to people across Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL), administers the public library portion of this program through a competitive grant process.

The Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities program awards planning, acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation grants to municipalities that sponsor state-aided public libraries. Grants are awarded for up to 50 percent of eligible project costs to improve state-aided public library facilities. A dollar-for-dollar match is required for each grant, with a maximum award amount of \$750,000.

Act 61 of 2011 requires PDE to submit to the Governor's Office and the General Assembly an annual report of the projects and services provided by the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. The present report, pertaining to the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, meets that mandate.

Grant agreements for the 2024 grant round ended September 30, 2025. Five extensions were requested to complete project work. These projects were Dormont Borough, Hanover Borough, Hamburg Borough, Pleasant Hills Borough, and South Fayette Township. Contracts for these awards were amended with a grant performance period extending to September 30, 2026.

11 grants were awarded in the 2025 grant round. Grant agreements for these awards end on September 30, 2026. At the time of this report, the window for submitting time extension requests was open. Due to unanticipated delays, a few projects are expected to request time to complete project work, which will extend their contracts to September 30, 2027.

30 applications were received in the 2026 grant round. 27 of these projects were approved for funding, with committed funds totaling \$11,247,446. This report provides a summary of these projects. These contracts were being signed and executed at the time of this report. The grant performance period for this project work is from April 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.

The Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities program changed from an annual grant cycle to a biennial cycle. The next application is expected to open in July 2027. Applicants approved for funding will have a grant performance period from April 1, 2028, to September 30, 2029, to complete project work.

Summary of 2026 Grant Cycle Projects

Adams County

Grant Recipient: **Adams County Industrial Development Authority**

Project: **Adams County Library System: Gettysburg Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 to purchase property and design and develop a new library facility.

Total project cost: \$1,500,000.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$750,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Allegheny County

Grant Recipient: **Edgewood Borough**

Project: **CC Mellor Library and Edgewood Community House**

Granted \$750,000.00 to restore roof and renovate interior space for accessibility and public use.

Total project cost: \$2,243,550.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$1,493,550.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Mt. Lebanon Municipality**

Project: **Mt. Lebanon Public Library**

Granted \$747,390.00 to renovate the central core of library's upper level to make accessible restrooms and spaces, improve entrances, upgrade flooring, and make lighting and HVAC improvements.

Total project cost: \$1,494,780.95

Award Amount: \$747,390.00

Matching funds: \$747,390.95

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Municipality of Penn Hills**

Project: **Penn Hills Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 for renovation of entrance area and mechanical system upgrades to HVAC and lighting, including the addition of solar panels.

Total project cost: \$1,500,000.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$750,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **City of Pittsburgh**

Project: **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Squirrel Hill Branch**

Granted \$400,000.00 to replace roof and HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$1,295,700.00

Award Amount: \$400,000.00

Matching funds: \$895,700.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Sewickley**

Project: **Sewickley Public Library, Inc.**

Granted \$750,000.00 to redesign and renovate first floor public space.

Total project cost: \$1,946,875.91

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$1,196,875.91

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Bucks County

Grant Recipient: **County of Bucks**

Project: **Bucks County Free Library: Perkasio Branch**

Granted \$63,952.00 to replace HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$127,904.00

Award Amount: \$63,952.00

Matching funds: \$63,952.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Township of Lower Southampton**

Project: **Township Library of Lower Southampton**

Granted \$89,500.00 for renovation of library space to expand and update children's area and create dedicated teen space.

Total project cost: \$179,000.00

Award Amount: \$89,500.00

Matching funds: \$89,500.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Butler County

Grant Recipient: **City of Butler**

Project: **Butler Area Public Library**

Granted \$95,131.40 to update HVAC system, create public meeting space, and address facility accessibility.

Total project cost: \$190,262.80

Award Amount: \$95,131.40

Matching funds: \$95,131.40

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Zelienople**

Project: **Zelienople Area Public Library**

Granted \$515,000.00 to construct new addition for increased, accessible and flexible space.

Total project cost: \$1,030,000.00

Award Amount: \$515,000.00

Matching funds: \$515,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Cambria County

Grant Recipient: **Cambria County**

Project: **Cambria County Library**

Granted \$303,050.00 for renovation of first floor spaces to create a learning lab and a community room, and to upgrade elevator with new mechanical system and accessible controls.

Total project cost: \$606,100.00

Award Amount: \$303,050.00

Matching funds: \$303,050.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Carbon County

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Palmerton**

Project: **Palmerton Library Association**

Granted \$600,000.00 to restore 100-year-old building and repair water-damaged areas.

Total project cost: \$1,200,000.00

Award Amount: \$600,000.00

Matching funds: \$600,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Centre County

Grant Recipient: **County of Centre [Centre County Commissioners]**

Project: **Centre County Library and Historical Museum: Centre Hall Area Branch Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 to build an addition which more than doubles the library footprint and adds accessible restroom, as well as making other accessibility and infrastructure upgrades to the library layout and electrical, lighting, and HVAC systems.

Total project cost: \$2,489,350.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$1,739,350.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Clearfield County

Grant Recipient: **City of DuBois**

Project: **DuBois Public Library**

Granted \$43,332.00 to replace windows in upper level and replace main entry and lobby.

Total project cost: \$86,665.00

Award Amount: \$43,332.00

Matching funds: \$43,332.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Delaware County

Grant Recipient: **Township of Marple**

Project: **Marple Public Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 to renovate circulation area, ceiling, floor, and entrance to improve safety, accessibility, and service.

Total project cost: \$1,601,766.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$851,766.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Ridley Park**

Project: **Ridley Park Public Library**

Granted \$30,000.00 to address water intrusion issues through drainage and sump pump.

Total project cost: \$63,000.00

Award Amount: \$30,000.00

Matching funds: \$33,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Sharon Hill Borough**

Project: **Sharon Hill Public Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 to replace library building with modern, accessible facility.

Total project cost: \$2,000,000.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$1,250,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Lackawanna County

Grant Recipient: **Lackawanna County**

Project: **Valley Community Library**

Revised May 2026

Granted \$197,500.00 to replace HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$395,000.00

Award Amount: \$197,500.00

Matching funds: \$197,500.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Montgomery County

Grant Recipient: **Township of Abington**

Project: **Abington Township Public Library**

Granted \$749,750.00 for planning grant to design a library which meets community needs.

Total project cost: \$1,499,500.00

Award Amount: \$749,750.00

Matching funds: \$749,750.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Jenkintown**

Project: **Jenkintown Library**

Granted \$81,900.00 for planning grant to develop master plan addressing library accessibility and safety, energy efficiency, renovation and potential expansion, and non-routine maintenance of mechanical systems.

Total project cost: \$163,800.00

Award Amount: \$81,900.00

Matching funds: \$81,900.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **County of Montgomery**

Project: **Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 for interior fit out of renovated spaces addressing accessibility and replacement of library HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$1,500,000.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$750,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Souderton**

Project: **Indian Valley Public Library**

Granted \$290,000.00 to replace HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$580,000.00

Award Amount: \$290,000.00

Matching funds: \$290,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Somerset County

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Somerset**

Project: **Mary S. Biesecker Public Library**

Granted \$10,757.50 to replace storm windows and restore original windows, preserve exterior wood fascia, and replace ADA ramp.

Total project cost: \$21,515.00

Award Amount: \$10,757.50

Matching funds: \$10,757.50

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Westmoreland County

Grant Recipient: **City of Greensburg**

Project: **Greensburg Hempfield Area Library**

Granted \$750,000.00 to replace windows, elevator, HVAC pump and exterior railing, and repair roof, masonry and water damage to facility.

Total project cost: \$1,500,000.00

Award Amount: \$750,000.00

Matching funds: \$750,000.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Grant Recipient: **Borough of Mount Pleasant**

Project: **Mount Pleasant Free Public Library**

Granted \$131,120.00 to replace roof, upgrade lighting and flooring, and convert restroom to ADA compliance.

Total project cost: \$262,240.00

Award Amount: \$131,120.00

Matching funds: \$131,120.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Wyoming County

Grant Recipient: **Tunkhannock Township**

Project: **Tunkhannock Public Library**

Granted \$49,281.00 to replace roof.

Total project cost: \$98,562.00

Award Amount: \$49,281.00

Matching funds: \$49,281.00

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

York County

Grant Recipient: **Red Lion Borough**

Project: **Kaltreider-Benfer Library**

Granted \$99,782.50 to replace roof and HVAC system.

Total project cost: \$199,565.00

Award Amount: \$99,782.50

Matching funds: \$99,782.50

Contract expiration date: 9/30/2027

Summary of Reported Totals

The following is a summary of the cumulative totals for the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund grant round awarded in 2026 and contained within this report:

Total Project Costs:	\$25,775,136.66
Total Matching Funds:	\$14,527,690.26
Total Grant Funds Committed to 2026 Awardees:	\$11,247,446.40