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Introduction

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Act 50 of 1993 to establish the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, administers the public library portion of this program through a competitive grant process. The competitive grant is used to award matching planning, acquisition, construction and rehabilitation grants to municipalities that sponsor state-aided public libraries.

Grants are awarded to municipalities for up to 50 percent of eligible costs for public libraries facilities projects. A dollar-for-dollar match is required for each project awarded grant funds. By providing funds to public libraries to make critical repairs, renovate existing space or to build new public library buildings, the General Assembly has ensured better facilities to provide vital library services to Pennsylvania citizens.

Act 61 of 2011 requires PDE to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report of the projects and services provided by the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. This report, which pertains to the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, meets that mandate.
2012 Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Projects

In 2012, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries received 28 applications from municipalities on behalf of their public libraries. All grant applications were reviewed by a team of evaluators and approval for funding was given to 15 library projects for a total of $3,706,657.
Summary of 2012 Projects

Grant Recipient: Borough of Media (Delaware County)
Project: Media-Upper Providence Free Library
Granted $500,000 to renovate and develop existing space to include improved access to the second floor; ADA-compliance upgrades; replace HVAC system with a more energy efficient system; and install energy efficient windows and lighting.
Total project cost: $2,481,809   Amount requested: $500,000
Matching funds: $535,305    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Borough of Sharpsburg (Allegheny County)
Project: Sharpsburg Community Library
Granted $349,701 to construct a 3,000 square-foot addition to the existing structure.
Total project cost: $699,402   Amount requested: $349,701
Matching funds: $349,701    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Borough of West Pittston (Luzerne County)
Project: West Pittston Library
Granted $500,000 to renovate and expand existing library by 2,000 square-feet.
Total project cost: $1,002,225   Amount requested: $500,000
Matching funds: $502,225    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Borough of Youngwood (Westmoreland County)
Project: Greensburg Hempfield Area Library
Granted $65,950 to develop new library space which includes: drywall installation; painting; flooring; electrical outlets; HVAC components; and ADA accessibility components.
Total project cost: $131,900   Amount requested: $65,950
Matching funds: $65,950    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Cameron County
Project: Barbara Moscato Brown Memorial Library
Granted $28,000 to paint and repair outdoor trim; replace HVAC unit; and provide ADA accessibility.
Total project cost: $56,000   Amount requested: $28,000
Matching funds: $28,000    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: City of Washington (Washington County)
Project: Citizens Library
Granted $500,000 to replace and upgrade existing HVAC systems to include: a new cooling plant; heating plant; air handling units; pumps; controls and an energy recovery unit for ventilation of the lower level.
Total project cost: $1,400,000   Amount requested: $500,000
Matching funds: $900,000    Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014
Grant Recipient: Connellsville City (Fayette County)
Project: Carnegie Free Library of Connellsville
Granted $150,000 to renovate the existing library facility by: replacing the roof; restoring windows; installing a new front door; and upgrading the lighting.
Total project cost: $361,222  Amount requested: $150,000
Matching funds: $211,222  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Cranberry Township (Butler County)
Project: Cranberry Township Public Library
Granted $230,183 to install a new roof; install a new HVAC system; create new programming and meeting spaces; and convert existing meeting room into study rooms.
Total project cost: $460,366  Amount requested: $230,183
Matching funds: $230,183  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Cumberland County Commissioners
Project: Shippensburg Public Library
Granted $500,000 to develop 11,000 square-feet of new library space and renovate the existing facility to include upgrading all mechanical systems and increasing ADA accessibility.
Total project cost: $1,360,000  Amount requested: $500,000
Matching funds: $860,000  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Honesdale Borough (Wayne County)
Project: Wayne County Public Library
Granted $86,761 to rehabilitate the building's electrical system; install an energy-efficient gas boiler; and install energy-efficient windows.
Total project cost: $173,522  Amount requested: $86,761
Matching funds: $86,761  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Pike County Commissioners
Project: Pike County Public Library
Granted $203,215 to develop more usable space including: an ADA accessible restroom; meeting room; and provide ADA accessibility to the lower level.
Total project cost: $406,524  Amount requested: $203,215
Matching funds: $203,309  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Punxsutawney Borough (Jefferson County)
Project: Punxsutawney Memorial Library
Granted $60,000 to renovate existing space to create two meeting rooms; expand circulation and staff area; and create a more accessible vestibule with ADA-compliant exterior doors.
Total project cost: $120,000  Amount requested: $60,000
Matching funds: $60,000  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014
Grant Recipient: Ridgway Township (Elk County)
Project: Ridgway Free Public Library
Granted $26,847 to renovate the front porch; the main library flooring; and replace the roof.
Total project cost: $53,694  Amount requested: $26,847
Matching funds: $26,847  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Scranton City (Lackawanna County)
Project: Scranton Public Library
Granted $500,000 to rehabilitate the building's exterior including: re-pointing mortar joints, install new flashing on 11 gable dormers; replace anchor pins; remove and replace damaged stone arches; repair chimney; and metal railings.
Total project cost: $1,427,507  Amount requested: $500,000
Matching funds: $927,507  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

Grant Recipient: Wrightstown Township (Bucks County)
Project: Village Library of Wrightstown
Granted $6,000 to replace the existing roof.
Total project cost: $12,000  Amount requested: $6,000
Matching funds: $6,000  Contract expiration date: 10/17/2014

2012 Summary of Reported Totals
The following is a summary of the cumulative totals for the 2012 Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund grant awards contained within this report:

Total Project Costs: $10,093,785

Total Grant Amounts Requested by 2012 Awardees: $3,706,657

Total Grant Funds Committed: $3,706,657

Total Matching Funds: $4,993,010