Connecticut State Library Construction Grants – Criteria for Awarding Grants

For Both Category 1 and Category 2 Construction Grants:

- Fully acceptable applications from distressed municipalities are given preference.
- Fully acceptable applications from principal public libraries are given preference over non-principal public libraries.

Category 1 Grants (new construction, major alteration, expansion)

Summary:

- A point system is used to help determine the acceptability of the projects and the method of allocation of the acceptable applications in each group.
- Points awarded for:
  - Higher AENGLC wealth rankings of service population (higher points for less wealthy municipalities)
  - Existing space problems in the current building.
  - The age of the current building.
  - Demonstrated need by the municipality for an improved library and the value the municipality shows for its library.
  - The soundness and thoroughness of the project plans.
  - The unique and innovative characteristics of the project that make it a model for other libraries.

Point system in detail:

- 1 point for completing the CSL Space Planning Worksheet and determining that the library's new project will result in a square feet total that exceeds the minimum recommended.
- 2 points if the current building has a square feet per capita total that is less than the recommended benchmark for the size of the service population.
- An additional 2 points if the new project will result in a square feet per capita total that exceeds the recommended benchmark for the size of the service population.
- 1 or 2 points if no points were awarded in any of the categories above, but there is a compelling reason why this project is still worthwhile despite the fact there may be no pronounced space problems at the library, or if there are space problems but the new project does not fully address the problems.
- 1 to 4 points based on AENGLC wealth ranking. 4 points for least wealthy towns.
- 0 to 5 points based on the Net Effective Age of the Building (using formula). 5 points for oldest buildings.
- 1 point for libraries when hours open per week is above recommended benchmarks for the size of the service population.
- 3 points if the new project is solving existing accessibility problems (based on ADA guidelines)
- 2 points for main library buildings rather than branches.
- 2 points for projects under $10 million that promise at least silver LEED certification.
- 1 point if projected books per square feet is less than 4.
- 0 to 4 points based on narrative which must provide a description of project, the need for it, the benefits to the public, the budgetary and staff implications, the staff participation in the project planning, and any unique or compelling characteristics of the project that make it a model for other libraries.

The minimum number of points to be considered for a grant award is 12. Even with a score of 12 or more the State Library reserves the right to reject the application if it identifies serious problems with the plans.
**Category 2 Grants** (more limited projects not involving any significant increase in space)

State Library staff determine if proposed projects are those that fit into acceptable project categories and are sound, thorough, and important for improving library service to the population being served. Once the acceptable applications have been determined, priority is determined in this order:

**Priority by Type of Project**

1. Create access that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Correct building or fire code violations and remodel to ensure a safe working environment. This could include the removal of asbestos and other environmentally hazardous materials.
3. Improve the library’s preparedness for emergencies and power outages (e.g., emergency generators).
4. Remodel to accommodate new technologies, or to improve the design of existing space.
5. Conserve energy.

Libraries can combine project types into one project plan, but this will affect priority order. Example: A project that is 100% code compliance will have preference over a project that is 70% code compliance and 30% conserve energy.

Please refer to the “State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines” for more detail regarding this criteria and the grant program in general.