

Amy Dettmer

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Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Amy Dettmer
Subject: Thanks for filling out this form: MALF Good Neighbor Grant

Thanks for filling out this form: **MALF Good Neighbor Grant**

You're receiving this email because you filled out the following form using your email address. **This form is owned by Minnesota Association of Library Friends.** Make sure you recognize and trust this form before copying or clicking on any links. If it looks suspicious, **report it.**

Here's what was received.

MALF Good Neighbor Grant

As communities across Minnesota navigate a year like no other, the Minnesota Association of Library Friends wants to empower Friends of the Library and their libraries to rise to the occasion. MALF's new Good Neighbor Grant is making monetary grants up to \$1,000 available to member organizations eager to support solutions to whatever problems loom largest in your community.

What's the catch? There isn't one. This program is, by design, broad and responsive in nature. A wide array of purchases and priorities are qualified for consideration, provided only that the priority identified involves the local library and centers a pressing community need.

Email *

adettmer@grandrapidsmn.gov

Contact Person *

Amy Dettmer

Organization (Legal Name): *

Grand Rapids Area Library Friends

Full Mailing Address

140 NE 2nd St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744

How much grant money are you requesting (up to \$1,000)?

\$975.00

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet **all** of the following eligibility qualifications:

I assert that the applicant organization I represent... *

- is a Friends of the Library organization serving a Minnesota-based public, school K-12, college/university, or special library,
- is a 501(c)3 Public Charity eligible to receive tax-deductible donations, and is in good standing with the IRS and Minnesota Secretary of State,

- ✓ is current in our annual MALF membership dues (\$35/yr)
- ✓ has pre-approval from our library to spend/allocate money awarded in the ways identified in this application, and
- ✓ agrees to dispense these funds for their intended purpose no later than August 31, 2026

APPLICATION

Provide a 100–300-word answer to each of the following prompts:

Describe the community need(s) you have identified and wish to address. What sector(s) of your community are you centering?

*

Grand Rapids Area Library (GRAL) serves the greater Grand Rapids, MN, community of more than 21,000 people. We have a growing population of aging patrons who increasingly are more and more interested in our Large Print collection, as it is easier to read and less straining on the eyes. Due to funding cuts in our city for 2026, our library has experienced a loss of 65% of our materials budget. This takes our Large Print budget from \$5,500 annually to just \$2,000 to purchase new titles. Along with our aging population, many more patrons are seeking Large Print editions as wait times are typically shorter for new releases. Our goal with grant support would be to grow our Large Print collection to meet our patron demand.

Describe the project, initiative or program you wish to fund - including how it involves the Library. Be as specific as possible.

*

GRAL staff has noticed a trend of increasing popularity with patrons borrowing Large Print books. With more than 167,000 materials circulating at our library annually, we recognize that our Large Print collection is among our smallest and has the greatest opportunity for growth. However, while facing budget cuts of 65% in materials acquisition, we have had to reduce Large Print purchases to just \$2,000 for 2026. The opportunity to increase this amount by \$975.00 would be a significant boost in our ability to order more Large Print titles to meet the needs of our aging population and anyone else who enjoys the benefits of materials with an increased font size.

How would a monetary award from the Good Neighbor Grant program support the creation of that program (if new) or bolster existing efforts (if already established)?

*

GRAL currently receives new releases in Large Print from popular authors, but we are limited to just a few each month. Our current budget of \$2,000 (a reduction of \$3,500) does not allow us to keep up with demand or volume of new releases and to complete popular series in this format. At approximately \$35 per book, we are at a loss of 100 new titles just this year. Growing our Large Print collection beyond our standard auto-order allows us to expand to other subgenres and to receive more books from popular authors that our patrons request. Additional funding with this grant would afford us the opportunity to bridge some of the gap created by a funding loss, keeping patron needs as a priority.

If you received a Good Neighbor Grant, how exactly would you spend the money? If applicable, provide a line-item list of expected expenses.

*

Typically, Large Print orders for our library are placed monthly. Thorndike Press offers Large Print titles for approximately \$35 per book. As a standing order customer, we receive a 20% discount taking the cost down to \$28 per book. Ingram Library Services offers Large Print titles that Thorndike Press does not have, so we would supplement those orders at a 5% discount, or \$33.25 per book. Receiving \$975.00 would allow us to purchase more than 25 titles that we would not otherwise be able to add this year.

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