

PRESS RELEASE

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SWEET HOME PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES \$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities for Accessibility of our Library Building

Sweet Home — Sweet Home Public Library has been selected as one of 300 libraries to participate in round three of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library provide better accessibility to the Library building.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Dazey. “This grant will give our community better access to the building with an updated automatic door. It will make the space easier for all to enjoy.”

As part of the grant, Sweet Home Public Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about accessibility and use the grant funds to install an updated automatic door for the Library, along with other small accessibility-related updates.

An automated door in a library provides easy access for all visitors, including those with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity and convenience for all.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Megan Dazey at shpl@sweethomeor.gov or visit sweethomeor.gov/library for more information soon.

Since 2014, ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees, and staff.

“Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).”

