

THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT

Start your journey to fund nutrition programs in Libraries

You have a great idea but need funds to get it off the ground. The first place to start is with your Library Director but if you are the Director, then getting a conversation started with your larger library system can help. There are library associations for smaller rural libraries as well as regional associations which can offer support & resources to help get you pointed in the right direction.

How to find and apply for grants

1. [American Library Association](#) not only can help you find grant opportunities but has a list of [state library](#) you can access for more information.
 2. [Association for Rural & Small Libraries](#) distributes funds for a wide range of projects, such as technology upgrades, literacy programs, and staff training
 3. Contact your State library: In addition to the federal funding they administer, state libraries often provide their own grant programs. Visit the Institute of Museum and Library Services website for a directory of state library agencies.
 4. Use [grants.gov](#): This is the central portal for finding federal grant opportunities from various agencies, including IMLS and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
 5. Search the ALA grants database: The [American Library Association](#) maintains a comprehensive list of its own grants and awards on its website, which you can filter by library type and grant purpose.
 6. Review [grant-writing resources](#): For a successful applications, consult resources like [ALA's guide to grant writing](#). Focus on identifying your target audience, clearly outlining your program's goals and expected outcomes, and creating a detailed budget.
-

Federal grants

- [Grants to States overview](#) such as [LSTA](#)
 - [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS): A primary source of federal funding, IMLS offers grants to libraries and state library agencies for projects that "develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools" to strengthen library services.
 - [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH): The NEH provides grants for cultural and educational projects that preserve humanities collections and make them accessible to the public.
 - [National Archives and Records Administration](#) (NHPRC): This agency offers grants for preserving and providing public access to historical records. The awards support digitization and other preservation efforts.
-

American Library Association (ALA) grants

The ALA offers numerous grants and awards for libraries and librarians. Below are some examples of grants that come available. Use the link for ALA

- [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#): This grant offers up to \$1,000 to help public libraries fund programs that have limited or no budgetary support. The application deadline for 2025 is February 3.
- [Libraries Transform Communities](#): Accessible Small and Rural Communities: This ongoing initiative provides funding to small and rural libraries to improve the accessibility of their facilities and programs for people with disabilities.
- [Libraries Transform Communities](#): Engagement Grant: For 2024-2025, this grant focused on building neighborhood connections. It supports innovative library efforts in community engagement.
- [ALA Building Library Capacity Grants](#): For 2025, these grants, supported by the Mellon Foundation, assist public libraries serving immigrants and refugees.

Foundation and corporate grants

- [Dollar General Literacy Foundation](#): Offers grants to schools, public libraries, and nonprofits to help children and adults improve their literacy skills. Youth Literacy Grants assist students struggling with reading, while Family Literacy Grants provide funding for joint adult and child literacy programs.
- [Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grants](#): Provides up to \$500 to public libraries for creative programs that encourage literacy and interaction with diverse communities.
- [Penguin Random House and United for Libraries](#): This new grant program supports rural and small libraries in need, awarding between \$500 and \$1,000.
- [ALSC/Candlewick Press "Light The Way" Grant](#): Supports libraries providing exemplary outreach to underserved populations through new or expanded programs.

Disclaimer: Charlie Cart has gathered this information to help start your journey. While we strive to update this doc as we hear or find additional information, availability, qualifications & sources may change, so be sure to review open and close dates for funding opportunities