



MILLTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities

MILLTOWN 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 increase community engagement and outreach through structured programs. These events will include physical, artistic and community engagement activities. By coordinating with ADRC we will provide weekly transportation from their homes to the library/events at no cost.

"We are so proud to be chosen again for this amazing opportunity," said Library Director Bonnie Carl. "This third round of funding will provide our library with an additional grant to help us continue what we started in the first round."

As part of the grant, the Milltown 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 programs and events that are of interest. The grant funds will provide a variety of engaging programs and eliminate the transportation barrier for those isolated residents to attend these stimulating events.

We provide services to an increasing senior population; about one in three adults in rural communities live with a disability; one in twelve adults in rural counties report having three or more disabilities.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Bonnie Carl at milltownpl@milltownpubliclibrary.org or visit milltownpubliclibrary.org for more information.

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)."