# AUTISM INCLUSION AT THE BEALS MEMORIAL



**ALA**AmericanLibraryAssociation

# A SPECIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

ala.org/LTCAccess









### **About the Grant**

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

## **Eligible Requirements**

To be eligible, a library must have a legal service area population of 25,000 or less and be located at least five miles from an urbanized area

### **Grant Amount**

ALA is was accepting applications for grants to be distributed either \$10,000 or \$20,000.



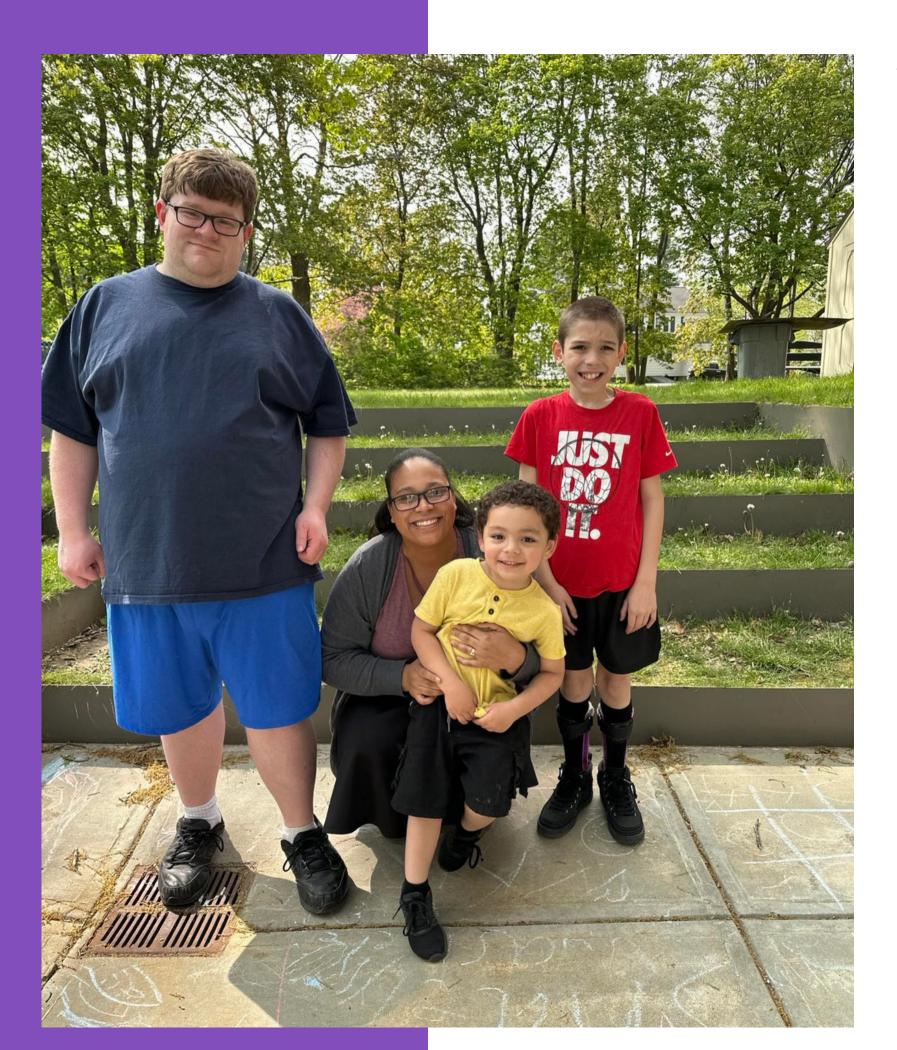
ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

A SPECIAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

We were granted \$10,000

June 2023 - May 2024

Selected as one of 240 libraries nationally.



# WHAT INSPIRED ME TO APPLY

My Son, Landon

My nephews

# **Library Patrons**

- Individuals and families on the spectrum are underserved within our community.
- If a family wants to participate in an autism-friendly activity or event, they must travel for at least thirty minutes.
- Local support for parents and families is limited.
- Individuals getting diagnosed is on the rise, yet support, awareness, and acceptance is still lacking.

# SEE BEYOND THE SPECTRUM INITIATIVE

See Beyond the Spectrum initiative, aims to help create a more accepting and accessible library for people on the spectrum and their families. We will offer a variety of services for the community that will focus on sensory-friendly programming and activities, educating library staff and the community, and expanding the library's collection.



## **Programing**

- Sensory Friendly Saturdays
- Sensory-Friendly Movies
- Separate/Small Performances



# Training

- Library Personnel (Staff, Friends, Trustees)
- Community Groups & Organizations



#### Collection

- Sensory Bags
- Educational Books/Representation
- My Library Guide
- Interactive Books



# **Community Outrech**

- Family Support Group
- Local Resource Help
- Meeting Space