

**SEE BEYOND THE
SPECTRUM**



**AUTISM INCLUSION
AT THE BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**



ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

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.



LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES

ACCESSIBLE SMALL AND
RURAL COMMUNITIES

ALA American Library Association

A SPECIAL
GRANT
FOR SMALL
AND RURAL
COMMUNITIES

AWARD
RECIPIENT

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 Outreach

- Family Support Group
- Local Resource Help
- Meeting Space