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Madison Public Library Receives National Grant for Small and Rural Libraries

April 10, 2025 (Madison, SD) – Madison 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 improve the entrance doorway to ensure safer, more comfortable access for patrons with mobility challenges, as well as caregivers and parents with strollers. This renovation will address the current limitations of the narrow doorway, which can pose difficulties and safety concerns, and will move us closer to our goal of creating a fully accessible and welcoming library for all.

“We are so proud to be chosen again for this amazing opportunity,” said Systems Librarian, Melanie Argo. “This third round of funding provides our library with an additional grant to help us continue what we started with our Round 2 Ramp project, set to be done in the near future.”

As part of the grant, Madison Public library staff will host a conversation with residents about physical accessibility to the library and use the grant funds to improve the entrance doorway.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Melanie Argo at melanie.argo@cityofmadisonsd.com, or visit madisonpubliclibrarysd.com 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).”

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About the City of Madison

The City of Madison, located in the heart of Lake County, South Dakota, is a vibrant community dedicated to fostering a high quality of life for its residents and visitors. With a strong focus on its core values of Accountability, Community Focus, Integrity, Respect, and Safety, Madison is committed to delivering exceptional public services and maintaining a safe, welcoming environment. The City works diligently to provide responsive and transparent governance, while continuously enhancing infrastructure and the overall well-being of all who call Madison home. For more information, visit www.cityofmadisonsd.com.