

WNY Rural Library Grant Program

Powered by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation



Key Areas of Focus

- *Active Lifestyles*
- *Caregivers*
- *Nonprofit Support and Innovation*
- *Preparing for Success*
- *Entrepreneurship and Economic Development*

Active Lifestyles

Youth Sports and Recreation

- Expand access to safe library spaces and programs that support physical activity and active play for children in rural areas.

Parks, Trails and Green Design

- Position rural libraries as community connectors that link residents to nature, recreation opportunities, and environmental stewardship through partnerships, education, and access to regional parks and trails.

Caregivers

- Position rural libraries as supportive hubs for family and direct caregivers for older adults by affirming the value of their work, fostering strong local networks, and connecting caregivers to providers, resources, and expertise.

Nonprofit Support and Innovation

- Support and strengthen the nonprofit sector via the rural libraries, to have the resources and tools needed to realize their missions - including increased access to data, technology, and more.

Preparing for Success

Early Childhood

- Leverage rural libraries as collaborative hubs that support social and emotional development for your children, helping them enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.

After School

- Empower children in rural communities to engage in out-of-school opportunities at our libraries that spark curiosity, develop transferrable skills, and broaden awareness of future careers.

Young Adults and Working Families

- Enable rural community members, through the services of our rural libraries, to access and succeed in careers by building the knowledge, soft skills, and technical expertise required for current and emerging workforce needs.

Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

- Foster vibrant and thriving rural communities, we will invest in infrastructure improvements and outdoor place-making opportunities at our rural libraries as they revitalize key commercial corridors, as well as create entrepreneurial opportunities.