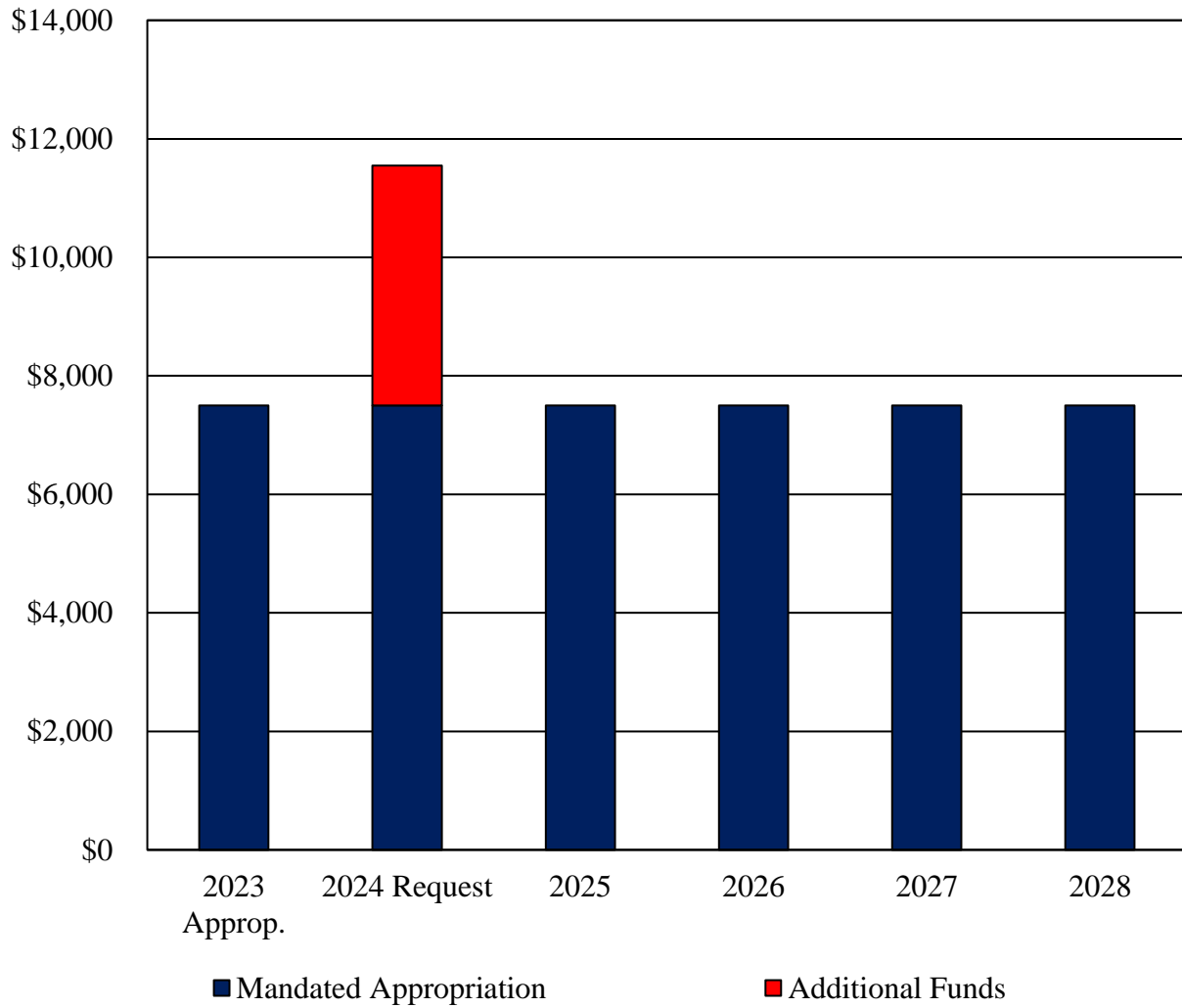


**RA11**  
**Maryland State Library Agency – Capital**

***Capital Budget Summary***

---

**Public Library Capital Grant Program**  
***Capital Improvement Program***  
**Fiscal 2023-2028**  
**(\$ in Thousands)**



Note: All funds are general obligation bonds. The mandated amount per Chapter 27 of 2021 is \$7.5 million.

## ***Key Observations***

---

- ***Future Funding Requests Exceed Statutory \$7.5 Million Annual Allocation:*** Future funding requests total \$12.5 million, which if requested in the next fiscal year would require additional supplemental funding. Additionally, these projects are funded in the Maryland State Library Association’s (MSLA) base budget, which means that without supplemental funding, future out-year projects in the *Capital Improvement Program (CIP)* may not receive funding, or the start of a project may be delayed.

## ***GO Bond Recommended Actions***

---

1. Approve the \$11,600,000 in general obligation bond funding for the Public Library Capital Grant Program.

## **Updates**

- ***Federal Stimulus Funds for Library Broadband Provide Additional Access, but More Funds Needed for Infrastructure:*** In fiscal 2022, as part of the MSLA operating budget, the agency received \$2.6 million in federal stimulus funds for broadband through the American Rescue Plan Act. Of this amount, \$648,000 was distributed to counties for infrastructure improvements. Maryland county libraries also participate in the E-Rate program, which is another source of federal funds to build broadband infrastructure and increase Internet access. In the past five years, Maryland has requested approximately \$4.3 million in E-Rate funding from the federal government, of which approximately \$4.0 million is currently slated for reimbursement.

MSLA reports that although progress has been made in providing Wi-Fi, computers, and library network software to all county libraries, infrastructure for broadband access is a local responsibility primarily identified when work is part of a larger renovation or construction project. Although MSLA does not track local broadband needs or program expenditures separately, the agency is an appointed member of the Maryland Broadband State Agency Collaboration Workgroup and has established a Library Broadband Taskforce to identify what the library community’s needs might be from the new Office of Broadband.

**The Department of Legislative Services suggests that MSLA comment on the need for additional capital investment to expand broadband access to county libraries.**

## ***Budget Overview of Grant and Loan Programs***

---

**Exhibit 1** shows library funding in the Governor’s budget as introduced. The fiscal 2024 capital allocation for the Public Library Capital Grant Program totals \$11.6 million – \$7.5 million as mandated by Chapter 27 of 2021 and an additional \$4.1 million allocated to previously funded projects to support additional construction costs resulting from higher than anticipated construction inflation.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Public Library Capital Grant Program Project List**  
**Fiscal 2024**  
**(\$ in Thousands)**

<u>County</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funding Type</u>	<u>Estimated Total</u>	<u>Prior Auth.</u>	<u>2024 Request</u>	<u>Future Request</u>	<u>Total State Share</u>
<b>New Projects</b>							
Anne Arundel	<b>New Glen Burnie Library</b> – Construct a 40,838 GSF facility to replace the 1968 facility.	Base	\$26,861	\$0	\$200	\$0	<1%
Garrett	<b>Ruth Enlow Library</b> – Construct a new 4,500 GSF facility in Friendsville to replace the existing 2,800 SF building.	Base	4,079	0	513	3,158	90%
Worcester	<b>Worcester County Library</b> – Construct a new 12,000 GSF facility to replace the 6,700 SF Pocomoke Branch Library.	Base	10,908	0	2,200	2,980	47%
<b>Continuing Projects</b>							
Baltimore	<b>Catonsville Library Renovation</b> – Renovate a 25,500 GSF facility that opened in 1963.	Supplemental	7,795	1,110	2,401	0	45%

*RA11 – Maryland State Library Agency – Capital*

<u>County</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funding Type</u>	<u>Estimated Total</u>	<u>Prior Auth.</u>	<u>2024 Request</u>	<u>Future Request</u>	<u>Total State Share</u>
Calvert	<b>New Twin Beaches Library</b> – Construct a new 17,788 GSF facility to replace the current leased space in Chesapeake Beach.	Supplemental	12,029	5,050	854	0	49%
Caroline	<b>Denton Library Renovation</b> – Renovate the 24,428 SF Central Library.	Base	1,999	1,018	467	0	75%
Frederick	<b>New Middletown Library</b> – Construct a new 15,250 GSF facility in Middletown to replace the existing 2,917 GSF facility.	Supplemental	10,911	3,609	563	0	38%
Harford	<b>Bel Air Library Renovation</b> – Renovate the 53,964 SF Bel Air Library.	Base	19,786	1,414	3,593	3,703	44%
Prince George’s	<b>Baden Library Relocation and Renovation</b> – Renovate the 4,910 SF former Baden Health Center into public library space.	Supplemental	3,425	1,318	519	0	54%
Talbot	<b>St. Michaels Library Renovation and Expansion</b> – Renovate and expand the existing 7,716 SF St. Michaels Library.	Base	6,020	120	240	2,650	50%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$103,813</b>	<b>\$13,639</b>	<b>\$11,550</b>	<b>\$12,491</b>	

GSF: gross square foot

SF: square foot

Source: Department of Budget and Management

*RA11 – Maryland State Library Agency – Capital*

Since fiscal 2020, total requests for library capital funds have averaged approximately \$9.3 million per year, with a range of \$7.7 million to \$11.2 million per year and an average shortfall of \$2.3 million from the allowance. The proposed budget includes 10 projects with grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$3.6 million. The estimated total cost of these projects is \$103.8 million, including \$13.6 million in prior authorizations and \$12.5 million in projected future requests. Six projects received funds in fiscal 2023, and four projects are newly funded in fiscal 2024. Though projects are eligible for a State match of between 50% to 90% of the total project cost as determined by a cost-sharing formula, the State funding share may be lower. The review committee often does not recommend fully funding a project request to ensure geographic diversity in the allocation of funds.

The Governor’s budget as introduced has a total of \$12.5 million in future spending for the projects funded in fiscal 2024. If requested in fiscal 2025, this amount exceeds the mandated grant allowance of \$7.5 million by \$5.0 million. **MSLA should comment on anticipated fiscal 2025 spending and plans to accommodate these costs.**

**Project Detail – New Projects**

**Anne Arundel County – New Glen Burnie Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.200	\$0.000	\$0.200
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.200</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.200</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	<i>0.26%</i>			
County Matching Funds	\$26.661			

- **Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$200,000 in general obligation (GO) bonds from MSLA’s base budget for the planning stage of this facility. Fiscal 2024 is the first year of funding for this project, which is estimated to cost \$26.8 million. This project has a State cost share of 0.26%, which results in a county match of \$26.6 million. Fiscal 2024 is the only year of State funding anticipated for this project.
- **Project Details:** The new library will be 40,838 square feet (SF) and replace the current 20,200 SF building built in 1968. Design will begin in November 2023 and will be completed by March 2025. The county intends to begin construction in September 2025 and conclude the project by March 2027. The current building is outdated, and the space does not meet statewide per capita guidelines. The proposed new building will have two floors, a 33,068 SF library on the first floor and space to house the Archaeology Lab and Archives of the Office of Planning and Zoning on the second floor. The building will also add meeting rooms, collaboration spaces, study areas, and space for Library by Mail, which serves homebound residents.

**Baltimore County – Catonsville Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$1.100	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$2.401	\$0.000	\$3.501
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$1.100</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$2.401</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$3.501</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	45%						
Original Estimated Cost	\$2.388						
Current Cost	7.795						
% Increase	226.4%						
County Matching Funds	\$4.294						

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$2.4 million in GO bonds in supplemental funding for this facility. This project first received \$1.1 million in GO bonds in fiscal 2020 and is currently estimated to cost \$7.8 million, which is an increase of \$5.4 million, or 226%, over the previous estimate of \$2.4 million. This project has a cost share of 45%, which results in a county match of \$4.3 million. Fiscal 2024 is the last year of State funding for this project.
- Funding History:** The project initially received \$1.1 million in fiscal 2020 for planning. In fiscal 2021, 2022, and 2023, the project did not receive any State funding.
- Project Details:** The renovated building will have 25,500 SF on three floors. The master plan for this facility was created in May 2017; the design phase started in May 2020 and was completed in September 2020. Construction is scheduled to start in March 2023 and be completed by March 2024. The project includes upgrading windows, electrical systems, plumbing, HVAC, masonry, and entryway access. The main and second floors will have public and staff areas, a large meeting room, a history room, and a magazine and study room. The basement will house a space for the recording arts to honor the creative and musical heritage of Catonsville and include a public recording studio for use by local musicians, filmmakers, and families to document stories and events of importance to the local community.
- Concerns:** Increased project scope and schedule delays.

**Garrett County – Ruth Enlow Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.513	\$3.158	\$3.671
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.513</b>	<b>\$3.158</b>	<b>\$3.671</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	90%			
County Matching Funds	\$0.408			

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$513,000 in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget for this facility. This project is currently estimated to cost \$4.1 million at a cost share of 90%, which results in a current county match of \$408,000. This project is slated to receive \$3.2 million in the fiscal 2025 CIP.
- Project Details:** Garrett County has not received library capital grant funding since fiscal 2008. The design phase of this project is scheduled to start in July 2023; construction is scheduled to be completed in September 2025. This proposed project is to construct a 4,500 gross square foot (GSF) facility to replace the existing 2,800 SF building, which was erected in 1970. The property is owned by the town of Friendsville and is colocated with a rescue squad building and hiking trail. Due to its proximity to West Virginia, the library serves patrons from that state in addition to Maryland residents. The proposed location has good drainage and adequate parking. The building will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; provide natural lighting; and upgrade electrical, HVAC, insulation, and windows for cold weather and twenty-first-century technology needs. The facility will expand to accommodate 7,500 additional items, meeting space for 100 people, a staff area, and seating for patrons. With a new building and low-income patrons in Friendsville and neighboring West Virginia, the library expects increased demand for computer access, and the plans will expand public computers from four to eight.

**Worcester County – Pocomoke Branch Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.000	\$2.200	\$2.980	\$5.180
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$2.200</b>	<b>\$2.980</b>	<b>\$5.180</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	47%			
County Matching Funds	\$5.728			

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$2.2 million in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget for this facility. This project is currently estimated to cost \$10.9 million with a cost share of 47%, which results in a current county match of \$5.7 million. This project is slated to receive \$3.0 million in the fiscal 2025 CIP.
- Funding History:** Worcester County spent \$375,000 on project planning in fiscal 2023.
- Project Details:** This proposed project is to construct a new 12,000 SF facility to replace the current 6,700 SF Pocomoke Branch facility. The design phase of this project has started and will be completed in July 2023; construction is scheduled to begin in November 2023 and be completed by January 2025. The existing building was constructed in 1970 and is the smallest facility in the Worcester County Library system. The county initially planned to renovate the facility but determined that new construction would be a better option fiscally. The library will sit on a city-owned armory site and will incorporate views of the Pocomoke River and a community garden. The new space will have study space, a conference room, a computer and technology area, and new shelving for print collections. The new library is expected to expand patron visits and because of the facility location in southern Worcester County, attract additional patrons from Virginia.
- Concerns:** This project has a high cost per GSF at \$908 and involves a new property assembly, which could potentially slow down construction. This project also has a long construction timeline, which may further increase costs.



**Project Detail – Previously Funded Projects**

**Calvert County – Twin Beaches Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
GO Bonds	\$0.300	\$0.000	\$2.250	\$2.500	\$0.854	\$0.000	\$5.904
FF	0.000	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.250
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.300</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$2.250</b>	<b>\$2.500</b>	<b>\$0.854</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$5.904</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	<i>49%</i>						
Original Estimated Cost	\$7.000						
Current Cost	12.029						
% Increase	71.8%						
County Matching Funds	\$6.154						

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:*** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$854,000 in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget to complete construction of this facility. Since fiscal 2020, this project has received a total of \$5.9 million in GO bonds in State funding, and \$250,000 in federal funding. In fiscal 2023, the original estimated cost of this project was \$7.0 million; in fiscal 2024, due to market inflation, the project is currently estimated to cost \$12.0 million, which is a 72% increase in costs since the start of the project. This project has a State cost share of 49%, which results in a county match of \$6.2 million. Fiscal 2024 is the last year of State funding for this project.
- Funding History:*** This project first received funding in fiscal 2020 with a \$300,000 grant for the design phase. Due to delays in the transfer of a parcel of land from the town of North Beach to Calvert County, a design contract was not awarded until February 2020, and consequently, no additional State funds were authorized in fiscal 2021. However, the project received \$250,000 in federal funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development in that year. The project received \$2.25 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, in fiscal 2022 and 2023 for construction.
- Project Details:*** This new facility will have 18,181 GSF and will be located in North Beach. Construction is underway and will be completed in June 2023. This building replaces leased space in Chesapeake Beach, which does not meet the current GSF per capita requirement. The land for this building was donated by Calvert County and is a centrally located site that can accommodate a two-story building and sufficient parking, including handicapped parking. This facility will have areas for staff, meeting and study spaces for community use, and dedicated computer and children’s programming areas.

**Caroline County – Denton Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$1.018	\$0.467	\$0.000	\$1.485
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$1.018</b>	<b>\$0.467</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$1.485</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	76%			
Original Estimated Cost	\$1.300			
Current Cost	1.999			
% Increase in Costs	53.8%			
County Matching Funds	\$0.513			

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$467,000 in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget to complete construction of this facility. Due to market inflation, the project is currently estimated to cost \$2.0 million, which is a 54% increase in costs since the start of the project in fiscal 2023. This project has a State cost share of 75% and a county match of \$514,000, which the county intends to cover with a private bequest. Fiscal 2024 is the last year of State funding for this project.
- Funding History:** The fiscal 2023 budget as introduced provided one year of funding, \$917,000, for construction of this facility, which was increased to \$1.0 million in the budget as passed. In fiscal 2023, the original estimated cost of this project was \$1.3 million.
- Project Details:** Project design began in August 2021 and was completed in May 2022. Construction takes place in two phases; the first phase involves most of the renovation work and is scheduled to be completed in June 2023. The second phase includes replacing the roof and elevator and is scheduled to begin in April 2024 and end in June 2024. The design reconfigures all three floors of the library: a 15,000 SF first floor, which houses library materials; a similarly sized second floor meeting space; and third floor storage. This renovation replaces and upgrades the building’s mechanical, electrical, and fire alarm systems, including an elevator; improves lighting; and reconfigures and constructs additional restroom facilities. The building will also receive a new roof, which is damaged and causes a safety hazard.
- Concerns:** Because phase two is not scheduled to start until April 2024, there is a concern due to inflation that additional funds may be needed in fiscal 2025 if a contract is not secured early in fiscal 2024.

**Frederick County – Middletown Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.309	\$2.300	\$1.000	\$0.563	\$0.000	\$4.172
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.309</b>	<b>\$2.300</b>	<b>\$1.000</b>	<b>\$0.563</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$4.172</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	38%					
Original Estimated Cost	\$8.326					
Current Cost	10.911					
% Increase in Costs	31.0%					
County Matching Funds	\$6.739					

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$563,000 in GO bonds from supplemental funding to complete construction of this facility. The original cost of this facility was \$8.3 million but, due to increases in construction costs, the total cost is currently projected as \$10.9 million, which is an increase of 31% since fiscal 2021. The State cost share in fiscal 2024 is 38%, and county matching funds will be \$6.7 million. Fiscal 2024 is the last year of State funding for this project.
- Funding History:** Since fiscal 2021, this project has received \$4.1 million in State funds. In fiscal 2021, this project received \$300,000 for the design phase and had a State cost share of 16%. At that time, the total cost was estimated at \$8.6 million, and the county expected a future request of \$1.075 million to construct and equip the project. In fiscal 2022, the county received a grant of \$2.3 million to support the construction phase of the project with a State cost share of 28%. In fiscal 2023, the county received an additional \$1.0 million and a State cost share of 36%. At that time, construction was expected to be completed, and no additional funds were anticipated.
- Project Details:** The new facility will be 15,250 GSF and will replace the existing 2,917 GSF facility. Frederick County first included this project in the county’s 2017 CIP. Design was completed at the end of calendar 2021. Construction began in August 2022 and will take 15 months. The new library will house a 35,000 item collection and have community meeting space for 100 people, private study rooms, a dedicated teen space, expanded storage and restroom facilities, and an early literacy area.
- Concerns:** This project receives supplemental funding because of the increased construction costs. The current GSF cost of \$638 is very high.

**Harford County – Bel Air Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$1.414	\$3.593	\$3.703	\$8.710
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$1.414</b>	<b>\$3.593</b>	<b>\$3.703</b>	<b>\$8.710</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	44%			
Original Estimated Cost	\$18.043			
Current Cost	19.786			
% Increase in Costs	9.7%			
County Matching Funds	\$11.076			

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$5.4 million in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget to complete construction of this facility. The original cost of this facility was \$18.0 million, but due to increases in construction costs, the total cost is currently \$19.8 million, which is an increase of 10% since fiscal 2023. The county expects future requests for \$3.7 million to complete the project. The State cost share in fiscal 2024 is 44%, and county matching funds will be \$11.1 million. This project is slated to receive \$3.7 million in the fiscal 2025 CIP.
- Project Details:** The project renovates the 53,964 SF facility first constructed in 1960 and subsequently renovated in 1996. This second renovation is part of the county’s 2019 Library Strategic Plan, which focuses on several objectives including customer experience, flexible spaces, and services. The Bel Air branch is the busiest branch in the system with approximately 22% of total activity in the county library system, including circulation, walk-ins, programming, and attendance. The renovated building will provide study rooms, flexible programming space, and an area for administrative services. The project will also upgrade the building envelope, roof, mechanical systems, electrical, elevator, and building access. Design was completed in December 2022.
- Concerns:** This project is not scheduled to commence construction until October 2023; therefore, final negotiated construction costs remain unknown until a construction contract is bid and awarded. Additional funding may be needed to complete the project if construction costs continue to rise or the project falls behind schedule.

**Prince George’s County – Baden Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.250	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.068	\$0.519	\$0.000	\$1.837
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.250</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$1.068</b>	<b>\$0.519</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$1.837</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	<i>54%</i>						
Original Estimated Cost	\$2,358						
Current Cost	3,425						
% Increase	45.3%						
County Matching Funds	\$1.588						

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$519,000 in GO bonds from supplemental funding to complete construction of this facility. The original cost in fiscal 2023 was \$2.4 million; due to increases in construction costs, the total cost is currently \$3.4 million, which is an increase of 45% since fiscal 2023. The State cost share in fiscal 2024 is 54%, and county matching funds will be \$1.6 million. This project is projected to receive \$519,000 in fiscal 2025.
- Funding History:** This project first received a State grant of \$250,000 in fiscal 2020. However, the county could only provide matching funds for planning; therefore, no funds were allocated to the project in fiscal 2021 or 2022. In fiscal 2023, the project received \$1.1 million with a State cost share of 69%.
- Project Details:** This project renovates the 4,910 SF former Baden Health Center into public library space for the Baden branch, which is currently located in a 2,500 SF space inside the adjacent Baden Elementary School. Construction began in October 2022 and is scheduled to finish in May 2023. The current branch library does not have public restrooms or meeting space and is only open when there are school personnel on site. This project will replace the windows, doors, roof, and the HVAC system as well as build out the interior with public spaces, including a meeting room, a staff office, a mechanical room, and restrooms.

**Talbot County – St. Michaels Library**

<b>Fund Source (\$ in Millions)</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>Future Request</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Obligation Bonds	\$0.120	\$0.240	\$2.650	\$3.010
<b>Total State Share</b>	<b>\$0.120</b>	<b>\$0.240</b>	<b>\$2.650</b>	<b>\$3.010</b>
<i>State Share %</i>	<i>50%</i>			
Original Estimated Cost	\$3.190			
Current Cost	6.020			
% Increase in Costs	88.7%			
County Matching Funds	\$3.010			

- Fiscal 2024 Budget:*** The Governor’s budget as introduced proposes \$240,000 in GO bonds from MSLA’s base budget for design and construction of this facility. The original cost in fiscal 2023 was \$3.2 million, but due to inflation, the total cost is currently \$6.0 million, which is an increase of 89% since fiscal 2023. The State cost share is 50%, which is the same as fiscal 2023, with county matching funds of \$1.6 million. This project is slated to receive \$2.6 million in the fiscal 2025 CIP.
- Project Details:*** This project will renovate and expand the current 7,716 SF facility, which was built in 1981. This new facility will be a 10,787 SF facility adding 3,071 SF, or 40%, to the current footprint. The design phase is underway and will be completed in early 2024. Construction will start in April 2024 and be completed by June 2025. This expansion will bring the building into compliance with State per capita guidelines and ADA requirements. The project adds collection space and a meeting room, teen room, reader seating, staff areas, and a restroom. The project also upgrades lighting and addresses maintenance and groundwater penetration issues. The number of computer stations will also increase and will be configured to reduce noise and crowding.
- Concerns:*** The cost per GSF is \$625, which could increase the out-year costs if design is not completed by January 2024 or earlier.

## ***Program Description***

---

MSLA provides strategic leadership, resources, and programmatic support and administers State and federal funds to Maryland public libraries. Chapters 337 and 338 of 2017 established MSLA as an independent State agency. MSLA oversees the Public Library Capital Grant Program, which serves the 24 public library systems across the State. Many of these branches need replacement, renovation, or alteration. The State is also responsible for paying the capital expenses for the State Library Resource Center and for three regional library resource centers. Chapter 27 increased the mandated grant for this program from \$5.0 million to \$7.5 million. See **Appendix 1** for a detailed program description.

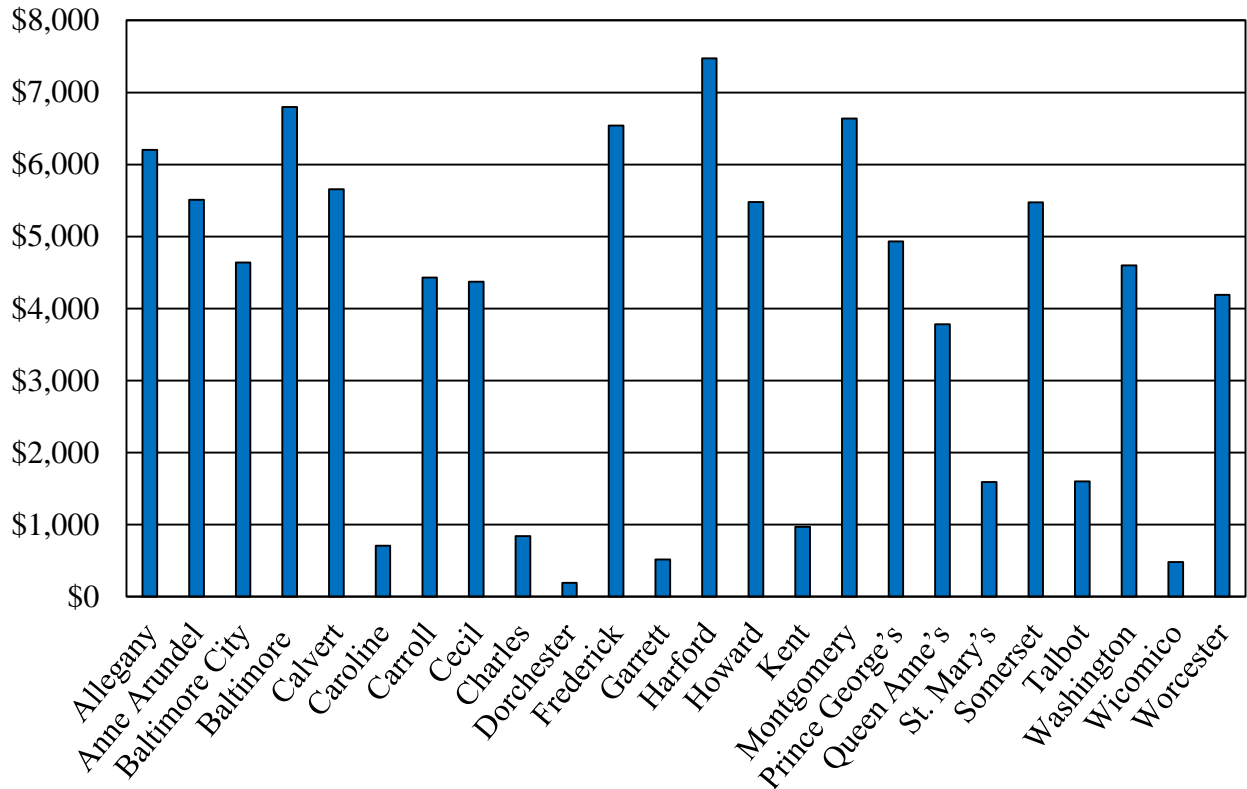
## ***Performance Measures and Outputs***

---

Since fiscal 2019, total requests for library capital funds have averaged approximately \$9.6 million per year, with a range from \$7.6 million to \$11.2 million per year and an average shortfall of \$3.2 million from the allowance.

**Exhibit 2** shows a total of \$96.3 million actual and allocated funds for the library capital program from fiscal 2008 to 2024. In that time period, Harford County has received the largest share of total allocations (\$7.5 million), followed by Baltimore (\$6.8 million), Montgomery (\$6.6 million), Frederick (\$6.5 million), and Allegany (\$6.2 million) counties. In fiscal 2024, Garrett County receives funds for the first time since 2008 (\$513,000).

**Exhibit 2**  
**Total Public Library Capital Grant Allocation**  
**Fiscal 2008-2024**  
**(\$ in Thousands)**



Source: Maryland State Library Agency



## **Appendix 1 Grant and Loan Program Descriptions**

### **Public Library Capital Grant Program**

The Public Library Capital Grant Program was established by Chapter 494 of 2006 and awarded its first grants in fiscal 2008. The program provides funds to local libraries for capital improvements to existing libraries or construction of new facilities. Starting in fiscal 2023, \$7.5 million in annual funding for the program is mandated either in the capital budget or the operating budget. To apply for a grant, local public library systems must develop a countywide library plan and produce a master plan describing the capital projects approved by the applicant's governing body. MSLA reviews applications and submits recommendations to the State Library Board for approval. This list of approved projects is then forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management for review and inclusion into the budget. Grants from the program require a match from any combination of county, municipal, or private sources. State grants may not be less than \$20,000. Library systems may request funding up to a maximum percentage of a project's cost. This maximum percentage is calculated for local library systems by the wealth-based cost-sharing formula in statute and ranges from 50% to 90%, based on that jurisdiction's wealth.

The statute outlines the criteria to be used to make funding recommendations:

- the public necessity and urgency of a project;
- the need for additional sources of funding for a project;
- the estimated cost and timeliness of executing a project;
- the viability of matching funds for a project; and
- geographic diversity.