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Page 1: GRANT OBJECTIVE

Q1

Contact Info

Name	Vicki Plude
Library	Fort Edward Free Library
Email Address	vplude@sals.edu
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Q2

What are the goals and objectives of your project?

Construction of an outdoor seating area.

Q3

How will this project change the library building?

It will enable all patrons a needed outdoor community space for activities, programs, and events.

Q4

How will this project benefit your patrons?

Many older adults find it difficult in bringing / carrying their own lawn seating from home. It also allows others to use the wi-fi, read, and relax on park benches.

Q5

What is the timeline for the project?

As soon as weather is permissible and the grading and reseeding of our backyard has been completed in early May of this year.

Page 2: Project Assessment

Q6

EVALUATION: What tools will you use to evaluate the program quantitatively (i.e. statistics)? What tools will you use to measure the program's success qualitatively?

Quantitively

Foot traffic: Measure the number of users over time, especially after events, programs, activities and leisurely participation.

Qualitatively

Engage with the community to gather feedback that offers a fuller picture of the library's backyard effectiveness.

Page 3: File Uploads

Q7

Upload WALK-THROUGH NARRATIVE

doc00652720250331104029.pdf (5.6MB)

Q8

Upload PROJECT BUDGET

doc00653220250331104842%20(1).pdf (390.6KB)

Q9

Upload PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

doc00653420250331104911.pdf (3.4MB)

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Upload LONG RANGE PLAN OF SERVICE

Fort Edward Free Library
23 East Street
Fort Edward, NY 12828

March 31, 2025

Dear SALS Board of Trustees,

Recently, our library underwent significant changes to improve the overall experience for our patrons. The library's parking lot was resealed and repainted, with lines redrawn to ensure better organization and accessibility. This made visiting the library more convenient and welcoming to our patrons.

To address ongoing disturbances from a neighboring property, a white vinyl privacy fence was installed. This proactive measure has effectively reduced the impact of disruptive behavior, which included regular incidents requiring sheriff intervention. While some noise persists, the fence has created a buffer that enhances the library's atmosphere, allowing patrons of all ages to enjoy their visit without exposure to inappropriate behavior.

The response from library patrons and others within our community regarding these improvements has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have commented on how the new fence not only enhances the aesthetics of the parking area but also contributes to a more serene environment, free from the distractions and nearby disruptions.

This being said, the back property of the library is being regraded and reseeded FREE OF CHARGE by a professional landscaper! This making it a perfect opportunity to have many outdoor programs, activities, events along with a place to sit and read for all ages.

This is why the library is requesting funding from the 2025 SALS Construction Aid Grant in asking for funding of \$2700 to purchase twenty portable lawn seats that fit up to 300lbs. and four six-foot metal park benches. The library would purchase the cement and masonry tie downs for anchoring down the benches.

This investment in portable seating and benches aligns perfectly with our mission to enhance the library's building and grounds while providing valuable resources for our patrons. We believe that this imitative represents a win-win situation for both the library and the community it serves. We kindly request your support in securing the necessary funding of \$2700.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Vicki Plude Fort Edward Free Library Manager/Director

Mr. James F. Donahue Fort Edward Free Library Board of Trustees President

Mr. James F. Donahue

Walk-Through

Community Member: Karen Devendorf

We recently approached a long-time library patron; a retired high school English teacher, with over 40 years of support for our library, to participate in the Customer Service Walk-About. This initiative was crucial for our application for the 2025 Construction Aid Grant, aimed at further enhancing our library services and facilities.

Summary:

How the library can be perceived as welcoming:

"In summary, the librarian and the other workers are always very friendly and are also very helpful. This small-town feeling is so desired especially after COVID when the world became impersonal."

How the library can be perceived as comfortable:

First, the library staff is welcoming and friendly. I was pleased to see new book offerings so readily available. Also, there is a wide selection of large print books for visually challenged readers."

How the library can be perceived as easy to navigate:

"I love coming here. It is small, but jam-packed with resources. The staff is always ready to help out if needed."

How the library can be perceived as successful:

Fort Edward Library is a little gem! I would be lost without it. It is easy to find books and the staff is super helpful and friendly. This is a great resource for our community – a "hub" of learning," so to speak. The computers, give those without one at home, an opportunity to connect to the outside world. So important in so many ways"

How the library can be perceived as being efficient:

see Back side

"For a small library, there are many resources available. The computers are so important to those who need them. There is a printer available also. Seasonal books are displayed in an appealing fashion and very well organized."

How the library can be perceived as being convenient:

The library is located in the center of the community. Easy parking. I often stop at the Post office and Village offices before I come here. Very convenient and accessible."

How the library can be perceived as being fun:

"This library allows you to "let your hair down" so to speak. Not formal or restricting like large, city library. The staff know you and what your reading habits are and they go out of their way to accommodate these habits. Just an enjoyable place to be."

Conclusion:

"This is a local library and can only get better and better! It is a gem in this community. Easy parking, great technology and resources and fantastic staff."

How will this project improve the library's physical space?

"This project can only improve a great place. This community hub will be able to offer even more to its patrons!"

How will this project improve service to people living in your community?

"Since this library is so accessible to the community, I see more and more users being welcomed in. Reading is key – let's all do what we can to ensure this."

How will this project make the library more welcoming?

"The library is quite a welcoming place, as it is. So, it stands to reason that this project will just add to this. A great place to find fun, friendship, and in some case solitude. Very needed.!"

Southern Adirondack Library System 2025 Challenge Grant Application

Budget:

In the "details" column, provide information on the item being budgeted for in this category.

Category	Project Funds Requested	In-Kind/Matching	Total	Details
Purchased Services			-	
Equipment			-	
Materials/Supplies	\$1120 ⁰⁰ \$1600 ⁰⁰	Cement + Tie downs Four Benches. \$200	59.99 each = \$1120 (1120) \$399.99	(20) 0001512 Portable folding chairs Library funding grant items \$1120 ⁰⁰ (4) 60 Foot Metal Park Benches
Personnel			-	
CE Program Registration			-	
Travel			-	
Total	\$2700 ⁰⁰	\$200 ⁰⁰	\$2900 ⁰⁰	Chairs + Benches from Walmart online

Library Director Signature: Wick Plude A. Edward McElwain

Board President Signature: James Filonak President 4/2/25 approved over phone 9.07 a.m.

Date: 3/3/2025

Submit all documents as PDFs through our online application portal.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Library property to be graded & seeded
allowing for outdoor activities, events,
programs & reading.



50x 100 ft

1

Library Property prior
to installation of new privacy
fence. Irving issue awarded
the library \$5,000. Last June of
2024 toward this upgrade to
the library property in
helping to deter bleeding of
poor behavior from a neighbors
properties





Library's Privacy Fence after completion, it extends just as you walk or drive into the library's parking lot. Where the macadam ends is the library's backyard to which we are requesting funding for chairs & benches.

W

March
31,
2025

Stepping outside the F.E. Library's main entrance, a view of the parking lot, our return box and the new privacy fence installed last June. Irving's Tissue donated \$5,000 toward the new fence.



(4)