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Editor: Please do not edit out ALA credit in the last paragraph.

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CAMERON PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities GAIN BETTER ACCESS TO THIS VITAL PUBLIC RESOURCE

CAMERON — The Cameron Public Library has been selected as one of 240 libraries to participate in 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 upgrade the exterior access to the library, replace sidewalk and add much needed ADA accessible parking.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director JoEllen Pratt. “This grant will improve library access for all community members and improve our services to our residents with disabilities. One of our top priorities is to make sure the community feels welcome and comfortable coming to our space.”

As part of the grant, Cameron Public Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about access to the library and use the grant funds to meet their needs.

This grant is just part of the funding the library has received for this exterior upgrade. The City of Cameron has contributed \$150,000 from the community ARPA funds and \$50,000 from community projects budget (2021) to update the exterior, upgrade the second floor windows and create an attractive and welcoming exterior entrance. Our patrons needing ramp and handicap parking access have been asking for this for many years. We are grateful that the funding is available and we can complete this important project in the coming months.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact JoEllen Pratt at 816-632-2311 or director@cameronlibrary.org 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).”

Our Mission: The Cameron Public Library will champion
Discovery, Creativity and Community Connection

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