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 **SOUTH MACON PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
*$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities***

MACON, IL — SOUTH MACON 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 provide materials for those with visual and cognitive impairment. We plan to expand our audio and large print items, continue home delivery and pickup, and add classes to help navigate tech issues. We also plan to acquire and develop a collection of sensory-friendly materials, including books, activity kits and educational aids tailored to various learning needs.

*“We are so proud to be chosen again for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Vicki Carr. “This3rd round of grant funding will allow our library to continue providing additional material and services for our residents with disabilities. It will help us improve our services to ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space and we will meet the needs of our youngest patrons with sensory issues.”*

As part of the grant, South Macon Public Library Director will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. The library has formed a core group of residents, senior group and community members who have worked together through the first round of grant funding and are excited to continue to meet the needs of residents with disabilities.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Vicki Carr at South Macon Public Library 217-764-3356, or email us at southmaconlibrary@gmail.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).”*

<https://www.southmaconlibrary.org/>

