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

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
[\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities]

Belmont, NH — Belmont 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 improve access to the building, collections, and programs.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Eileen Gilbert. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better. It will help us improve our services to ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space.”

As part of the grant, Belmont 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 building accessibility and use the grant funds to work on the most urgent issues which arise.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Eileen Gilbert at the library or visit belmontpubliclibrary.org for more information.

The Belmont Public Library is open six days a week and any time at www.belmontpubliclibrary.org, serving the community with books, digital resources, and cultural programming. It’s our 95th year in the building, and our 130th serving the Belmont community.

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).”

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For more information, contact:

Eileen Gilbert
(603) 267-8331
bpl@belmontnh.gov
PO Box 308
Belmont NH 03220