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10/30/2020

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**Governor Lamont Joined by Interim State Librarian Maureen Sullivan Announces Grant to West Haven Library as part of Everybody Learns Initiative**

**West Haven Library awarded $60,330 to support reopening efforts**

West Haven – On October 7, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont was joined by Interim State Librarian Maureen Sullivan to announce that his administration is dedicating $2.6 million of Connecticut’s Coronavirus Relief Funds to support the state’s public libraries as they continue to make health and safety improvements and offer more services to residents amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor made the announcement at the Raymond Library in East Hartford. Others in attendance were Sarah Morgan, the library director; Marcia Leclerc; Congressman John Larson; Connecticut Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona; Doug Casey, Executive Director of CET; and the East Hartford Superintendent of Schools, Nathan Quesnel. Dawn LaValle, Director of the Division of Library Development, and the person who will administer the program, joined Sullivan in representing the State Library.

The Governor said the funds will be distributed among 65 libraries across Connecticut based on their size and the number of residents they serve each year, which will allow much of the funding to be allocated to target those that serve low-income urban and rural communities. The funds are anticipated to be largely used to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, signage, and furniture.

West Haven Library was awarded a grant in the amount of $60,330 to support reopening efforts. At West Haven Library, the funds will go primarily towards cleaning supplies and cleaning, PPE for the public and staff, utilities and security, and furniture to assist with increasing capacity.

This funding is in addition to the Lamont administration’s Everybody Learns initiative to increase broadband infrastructure and to create public Wi-Fi hotspots that offer free internet access. Many of these have been placed at libraries across the state.

“Libraries offer critical services for the public, including reliable Wi-Fi, access to computers and laptops, supportive learning materials and resources, and librarians who are trained in helping residents access key services,” said Governor Lamont. “Most importantly, libraries provide safe and quiet spaces for people to work and study, which is critical to many people who do not have the environment to do this at home. Especially during this difficult time, libraries and the work of so many generous librarians have played a critical role in supporting K-12 and post-secondary students with remote learning.”

“This investment in our public libraries will enable their leaders and staff to extend and enhance the services and programs that are so valued and important to their constituents and communities,” said Interim State Librarian Maureen Sullivan. “Public libraries have always been places that support education and self-directed learning. They are now a critical community resource for virtual learning.”

“This funding will go a long way towards assisting the library in staying open safely for the public”, Colleen Bailie, director of the library stated. This funding will allow the library to expand on its basic level of service to ensure that everyone who needs to utilize our facilities has the ability to do so.

Learn more about the Everybody Learns Grants to Public Libraries at [libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/ELgrants](https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/ELgrants).

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**About West Haven Library**

West Haven Library, located in West Haven, CT was originated in 1909 with a Carnegie grant to the Village Improvement Association of West Haven, which is the governing body of the library to this day. West Haven library educates, entertains, and provides resources to the West Haven community through its multiple locations.

**About the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development**

The Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development (DLD) provides leadership, funding, education, and statewide services that enhance a local library's ability to deliver high-quality library service to their community.

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