

For Immediate Release

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Sugar Grove Public Library Awarded Grant from ARPA Funding

The Sugar Grove Public Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the federal American Recovery Plan Act funds, administered through the Illinois State Library. The grant, *Self-Checks for Safe and Convenient Service*, will provide funding in the amount of \$19,713 and purchase critical technology necessary for effective Library operations.

The grant, written by Library Director Shannon Halikias, will allow the Library to acquire self-check machines, replacement scanners and other associated equipment used in workstations and for services for patrons in Circulation. As the Library was reopening to full service after post pandemic limitations, both heavily used self-check machines died simultaneously. “The technology equipment we were using was over twelve years old, and due to underfunding we have very little money for updates to our technology, building, and repairs,” states Shannon Halikias. “Self-checks are critical for patron privacy, safety for patrons that want to maintain distance from others, and staff safety as we continue to navigate services as Covid and potential variations.” As the staffing is limited at the Library, self-checks allow patrons to complete basic transactions of checkouts and save staff time for phone calls, assisting patrons and other relational interactions. The Library has acquired one new self-check and more are being ordered.

The grant is considered competitive, and involves careful evaluation and reporting through the Illinois State Library.

You may contact Library Director Shannon Halikias at shannon@sgpl.org or visit the Library located at 125 S. Municipal Drive in Sugar Grove.

You may contact Shannon Halikias for clarification about content or releases. We welcome interviews, photo opportunities, and informational requests.