

# JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



## I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: March 20, 2024

### Contact Information:

Organization Name: Indian Valley Public Library  
Address: 100 E. Church Ave. Telford, PA 18969

Contact Name: Margie Stern  
Contact Title: Director  
Contact E-mail: mstern@ivpl.org  
Fax: 215 723-0583  
Year Incorporated: 1963; 2009

Phone: 215 723-9109 ext. 102

Web Address: [www.ivpl.org](http://www.ivpl.org)

**Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation:** Yes \_\_\_ No x

### Field/s of Interest:

x Arts, Culture and Humanities    \_\_\_ Environment/Animal Welfare    \_\_\_ Health  
\_\_\_ Human Services    x Education    \_\_\_ Religion

### Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: Indian Valley, Montgomery County, PA

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: IVPL is funded by Franconia, Lower Salford, Salford, Souderton, and Telford municipalities, with a total population of 44,309. IVPL currently has 31,997 library card holders. In 2023, we saw 111,575 visitors to the library.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Indian Valley Public Library is to build and serve the community, enrich lives and minds by inspiring curiosity and advancing literacy, and provide innovative collections, programs and services.

Organization Description: The Indian Valley Public Library is a diverse, inclusive, equitable, and accessible place where people connect, foster relationships, and engage in programs, activities, and events.

Annual Budget \$1,262,272	<u>  10  </u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>  84  </u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>  9  </u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>  16  </u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>  0  </u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>  0  </u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>5,626</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: 1) Five funding municipalities (73%) 2) State Aid (13%) 3) Fines/fees/fundraising (14%)

### Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$50,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: Indian Valley Public Library is seeking a general operating grant. These funds will allow the library to provide top-quality resources and programs to our community.

Indian Valley Public Library  
JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND  
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

**1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness**

The Indian Valley Public Library serves five municipalities, including Franconia, Lower Salford, Salford, Souderton, and Telford, which are all part of the Souderton Area School District. The library is free and open to everyone, and we accept library cards from anyone in Pennsylvania as part of Access PA. While our official service area caters to a population of 44,309, we welcome anyone who wishes to use our library.

In 2023, we had 111,575 visitors, and this year we expect even more. We offer a range of educational and informative programs for people of all ages, including babies, toddlers, school-age, teens, and adults. Last year 22,531 people attended our programs, which is a 73% increase from last year, and we are getting closer to our pre-pandemic numbers.

At IVPL, we provide programs and spaces that welcome and accommodate everyone, including those in day and residential facilities for adults with intellectual differences. Our library is also a popular destination for job seekers, unemployed individuals, and business people, who use our free Wi-Fi and internet access. We are proud to provide a safe and warm space for those who are housing insecure and seeing relief from the elements.

**2. Funding request:**

The Indian Valley Public Library is committed to creating an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all community members. We aim to promote diversity, inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in all our operations. However, we have faced adversity and funding cuts from two of our funding boroughs. A small but vocal group has even suggested defunding the library entirely due to their strong beliefs against LGBTQ+ individuals and people of color. They have been spreading false information about our policies.

Fortunately, our staff, Board of Trustees, and community advocates have united to thwart these efforts and ensure that the library remains open to all. We have increased transparency in our funding processes and library policies, but there is still more work to be done. We will continue to seek funding and support from our local government and community partners.

With funds from the Erb Charitable Fund, we will be able to provide a wider range of books, resources, and programming that represents the diversity of our community. Our goal is to expand our educational programs to cater to the lifelong learning needs of adults in both in-person and virtual settings. We recently had a fantastic response to our topical series, "Israel-Hamas War and Antisemitism Revisited," presented by Dr. Thomas Kolsky, MCCC Professor Emeritus of History and Political Sciences.

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The IVPL building was formerly an elementary school and was given to the library by the Souderton Area School District back in 1988. The building was constructed in 1968, and now it is facing issues with outdated and failing infrastructure. A grant was received from the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund two years ago, which provided matching funds for the installation of a new roof. This year, we are rehabilitating two bathrooms to make them more handicap-accessible, energy-efficient, and single-use. Our overall plan includes the replacement of the HVAC system and lighting throughout the library to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

Our top priority is to make sure that our building is accessible to all members of the community, regardless of their physical abilities. Therefore, we will continue to make the necessary improvements to our infrastructure and facilities to ensure that everyone can enjoy the library's resources and programming.

**3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission**

Indian Valley Public Library will restore some of the cuts that were recently made to the collection budget. This means new, high-quality literature will be added to the collection for children, teens, and adults that reflects the community. In addition, a portion of the funds will be allocated to adult programming, providing lifelong learning opportunities and educational experiences. The library has earmarked \$10,000 of the Erb Charitable grant for this purpose, to be spent over the next year.

Indian Valley Public Library is currently seeking state and federal grants and funds to help with costs associated with improving the HVAC system and lighting in the library. Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation grants for 2025 are due in October 2024. The amount of \$40,000 will be used as a portion of matching funds to be spent in 2025.

**4. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

Our objective at Indian Valley Public Library is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our patrons. We aim to achieve this by providing a diverse collection, robust programming, and an accessible building. Our ultimate goal is to foster a sense of community and promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of various cultures and perspectives. We believe that by doing so, we can encourage positive and meaningful interactions between patrons, leading to a more equitable and inclusive environment for everyone.