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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMAK LIBRARY AWARDED NEARLY A MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING

8/20/2025 – The Omak Public Library, a branch of NCW Libraries, has been awarded nearly a million dollars in grant funding for interior library renovations. These significant investments from national, state, and private agencies demonstrate a shared belief in the critical importance of public libraries in rural communities.

Funding includes \$732,000 from the Washington State Department of Commerce Library Capital Program, \$250,000 from the Paul Lauzier Foundation, and \$10,000 from the American Library Association. These funds along with local donations, combined with NCW Libraries \$540,000 investment, bring the Omak Library renovation budget to over \$1.5 million.

The Omak Library renovation is part of NCW Libraries Reimagining Spaces Project, the district's \$10 million investment in redesigning the interiors of the buildings where they provide library services. The NCW Libraries Board of Trustee's goal for the project is to ensure that each of their libraries is safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces, positioned to serve the diverse needs of each community for years to come.

NCW Libraries operates 30 library locations across the region due to community partnerships with the municipalities or friends' groups who provide library buildings for the district to operate in. The Reimagining Spaces Project is the district's practical investment into those local partnerships. NCW Libraries and the City of Omak have a long legacy of partnership. The City of Omak has contracted with NCW Libraries since 1960 to provide library services for Omak residents.

Initial design plans for the Omak Library renovations include reconfiguring the existing space to incorporate a new, large multipurpose room, a quiet study room, and substantial ADA improvements. The overall goal of the redesign is to reclaim non-public areas of the building to maximize space for public use.

To inform the design plans, Omak Library staff will conduct extensive community engagement efforts in October and November to gather feedback on the look and feel

of the space, how the space should be used, and to determine which accessibility improvements are most important to community members.

NCW Libraries has already reimagined libraries in Brewster, Curlew, Peshastin, Royal City, and Soap Lake. Current projects include libraries in Bridgeport, Cashmere, Chelan, Entiat, Ephrata, Manson, Oroville, and Omak. Learn more about the Reimagining Spaces Project at www.ncwlibraries.org/reimagining-spaces/.

MORE INFORMATION

[NCW Libraries](#)

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[NCW Libraries Reimagining Spaces Project](#)

[Washington State Department of Commerce](#)

[Lauzier Foundation](#)

[American Library Association](#)