

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE:

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Governor Rell Announces \$1 Million Grant for Avon Free Library Expansion

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that a \$1 million state grant to help renovate and expand the Avon Free Library is expected to gain approval when the state Bond Commission meets August 11. **NOTE: The meeting was postponed until Aug. 17.**

The state funds will contribute toward the overall \$9.5 million cost of the project. The Town of Avon is expected to provide nearly \$8 million of the funding, while the Library's Board of Trustees plans a fund-raising campaign for the remaining \$500,000.

"The Avon Free Library has simply outgrown its current building – and that is a good thing," Governor Rell said. "Connecticut's public libraries are an invaluable resource for their communities and the demand for Avon's library proves the point. Since the current building was completed in 1982, the population of Avon has increased by more than 50 percent. Circulation has increased by more than 30 percent in just the last 10 years. It is clear that the current building can no longer meet the community's needs.

"When completed, this project will give library patrons much more room for seating, space to browse the collections and areas for research and public meetings," the Governor said. "There will also be added space for computer users and more room for staff, volunteers and library supporters. This is a worthy project and I am pleased the state is able to help move it forward."

Governor Rell said state legislators and local officials from Avon strongly advocated for the funding. "I am glad we were able to help," the Governor said.

More than half of the residents of Avon hold library cards and the library recorded more than 205,000 visits in 2008-09, an average of nearly 12 visits per capita.