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Editor: Please do not edit out ALA credit in the last paragraph.

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PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
\$3,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents to Expand Non-Traditional Collections

FALMOUTH, KY — Pendleton County Public Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities.

The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library expand Internet access through a Hotspot Lending Program and create additional non-traditional library collections.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Melissa Byrd. “This grant will allow our library to get to know the needs of our residents better and to explore ideas for new library collections that can help residents improve their quality of life.”

As part of the grant, Pendleton County Public Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host an online conversation with residents about non-traditional library collections and use the grant funds to purchase materials.

To help alleviate some of the financial hardships faced by many in our community, our library has begun to offer non-traditional items for check-out. We lend Literacy Kits to help families improve early literacy skills. We lend board games, puzzles, and glue guns for family activities and craft making. We lend TI-84 Plus graphing calculators to help students succeed in math. To help with STEM education, we recently added Makey Makey and Code Car kits. We are currently working to add laptops and hotspots to our collection. We expect there are other items that will also benefit our community.

We know internet access is a significant need at this time, and we want to know what other items would be most helpful to community members who may be struggling financially. Will it be shaped cake pans to help make a child’s birthday even more special, will it be musical instruments, sewing machines, or other tools; there are so many possibilities!

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Melissa Byrd at mbyrd@pcplibrary.org, or visit pcplibrary.org for more information.

More than 300 libraries applied for the grant, according to ALA.

Since 2014, ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space



for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

“Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).”

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