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

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**BEAMAN LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES**  
***\$3,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents to Help Retain Sense of Community***

Beaman — The Beaman Community Memorial Library has been selected as one of 300 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 to provide opportunities for community interaction.

*“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Sarah Dougherty. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents better and help us build a more cohesive community,*

As part of the grant, Beaman Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a] conversation with residents about [how the library can help provide community-centered activities and use the grant funds to host them.

Beaman has recently lost its only restaurant and it served as a community center. The library would like to explore opportunities to bring Beaman’s citizens together again.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Sarah Dougherty at (641)366-2912 or [library@beaman.lib.ia.us](mailto:library@beaman.lib.ia.us), or visit [beaman.lib.ia.us](http://beaman.lib.ia.us) for more information.

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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