



New Statewide Library Card Now Available in Montgomery County Public Libraries

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Location: [Montgomery County Public Libraries](#)

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MPower has arrived in Montgomery County!

The new My Maryland Public Libraries Card, known as the MPower Card, that allows the holder to access the resources at the 174 public libraries throughout the state, is now available in Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL). The card was created by the Maryland Library Partnership and the Division of Library Development of the Maryland State Department of Education and issued to each public library system in the state.

"This is an exciting cooperative effort among our state public libraries," said MCPL Director Harriet Henderson. "As our customers become increasingly mobile, they will be able to access any public library across the state, regardless of where they live, work or travel."

Public Services Administrator for Customer Support Rita Gale explains that "This new MPower card will allow Montgomery County Public Library card holders to visit other library systems in Maryland and register to check out materials from those library systems. We hope our customers will see it as an extra benefit to having their Montgomery County Public Library card, particularly if they travel or work in other parts of the state."

The MPower card holder must register in each county in which they plan to use their card and they are subject to the rules and regulations of the local library system in which the materials are borrowed. For example, the library system lending the materials is responsible for notifying the patron of overdue materials, but the MPower library card holder is responsible for returning the materials on time, or paying fines and the cost of lost materials. Because the 24 Maryland library systems do not use the same circulation and catalog software, items returned to other Maryland library systems will not be removed from the customer's MPower library card account until they reach the home library in Montgomery County, and the MPower library card holder will be responsible for those materials if they are lost in transit. Any fines collected will be retained by the library system accepting the materials.

The free MPower card will be issued in Montgomery County according to the following guidelines:

Persons applying for an MCPL card for the first time will receive an MPower Card (in the card/keychain combination);

Persons from out-of-state (outside the metropolitan DC area) applying for an MCPL card will receive an MPower Card upon payment of a \$10 nonrefundable nonresident library card fee;

Current MCPL card holders requesting a replacement for a lost Montgomery County card will receive an MPower Card. A \$2 fee will be charged for the lost MCPL card. Thereafter, a lost MPower Card will be replaced at no charge.

Current MCPL card holders may receive an MPower card in exchange for their current MCPL card, upon request only. There will be no automatic exchange of cards.

The lenticular design of the card shows two separate images, depending on the angle at which the card is held. One image is a traditional Maryland scene overlaid with the MPower logo and the other is the new Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) logo, which identifies Montgomery County as the library system in which the card was issued. This allows each of the state's 24 public library systems to retain a local identity while providing statewide usage. Maryland is the first state in the country to offer a statewide library card.

For more information about the MPower Card, call your local Montgomery County Public Library branch.

Montgomery County Public Libraries, 99 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
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