California State Library, Library Development Services
Cooperative Library System Liaison Report
Updated July 8, 2025

State Library News

LDS Newsletter
Please be sure to sign up for the LDS Newsletter [LibrarytoLibrary](). For those who receive this monthly email, please consider forwarding it to your staff and/or printing a copy for your break rooms.

eBooks for All Update
The State Library is working on plans to ensure that the Palace Project continues uninterrupted for all California public libraries in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and beyond. In partnership with Califa, the State Library is confident that libraries across the state will have no interruption of eBook access from Palace in the coming fiscal year. Specific plans will be announced in the near future, but in the meantime all Palace libraries can plan for the fact that their service will continue at no local cost for 2025-2026.

Marketing Toolkits
The [California State Library's marketing toolkits]() are designed to help California libraries deliver consistent messaging about the services and resources you provide to your communities. This is part of an effort to help coordinate statewide messaging about the many great things libraries do every day. We encourage you to use the messages, graphics, and other resources to raise awareness and reinforce the value and impact libraries provide to their communities.

California Freedom To Read Act
The California Freedom to Read Act requires every public library jurisdiction that directly receives any state funding to establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy for its libraries by January 1, 2026. The State Library has set up [this webpage]() to help libraries in complying with the law.

At the State Library, we would like to see the language in the bill in your collection development policies as is. We cannot provide any legal interpretation or advice on the language submitted.

We understand that some libraries might experience a challenge with this request, so we urge you reach out very soon if this is the case to collectiondevelopmentpolicy@library.ca.gov. We will offer libraries the opportunity to demonstrate how their policy complies with the language in the new law. This information would come in the form of an attachment to your policy, from the library director, that clearly explains how your policy's language maps to the language in the law. As a reminder, we at the State Library are consultants and administrators and we cannot provide a legal interpretation of your policy.

State Library staff are available to provide technical assistance to libraries who need help with their policies. If you would like to speak with a State Library staff member about your policy or the bill, please email collectiondevelopmentpolicy@library.ca.gov with your request.

Networking and Training

Public Library Directors Networking Call
Stay posted for information on upcoming calls, and thank you to all who participated in the July 9 visioning session.

Rural Libraries
The California State Library continues to host a monthly **Community of Practice for Rural Libraries**, held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM via Microsoft Teams. Staff at all levels are encouraged to participate. Session dates can be viewed on the webinar registration page.

In addition, rural library staff interested in health-focused programming and a dedicated Community of Practice specific to health information are invited to connect with **Lisa Lindsay**, Tribal and Rural Libraries Program Consultant, at lisa.lindsay@library.ca.gov to provide feedback on current plans.

Opportunities

Groundwork Grants
Groundwork Grants: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project is a California-wide initiative to strengthen emergency readiness for institutions with collections, including archives, museums, libraries, historical societies and sites, nonprofits, higher education institutions, local governments, and Native American Tribal governments. The grant opportunity provides funds and resources to institutions with historically and culturally significant collections, prioritizing those that document underrepresented and historically excluded communities. *State of CA funded.*

Groundwork Grants II: Major Projects provides awards up to $150,000 to address significant improvements in disaster preparedness, prioritizing institutions that document the experiences of communities whose contributions to California's history and culture have long been underrepresented in mainstream memory institutions.

Grant Highlights
- **Goals**: Assist organizations with costly equipment upgrades, facility renovations, storage solutions recommended by consultants, and other projects related to disaster readiness.

Special encouragement for installation or upgrading of automatic fire suppression systems.

- **Before You Apply:** Applicants are strongly encouraged (but not required) to receive a free Ready or Not consultation before applying. Applicants may also schedule a Zoom or Teams meeting with grant staff to discuss project eligibility, or email a project summary/application draft to the staff contact below.
- **Awards**: Maximum awards of **$150,000**

Submission Deadline: Friday, August 8th, 2025, at 11:59pm PT
Apply Now: groundworkgrants.org
Staff Contact: Grace Bautista, Program Officer | grace@myriadconsultants.org

California Library Connectivity Grant Opportunity

The California Collaborative Connectivity (CCC) Grant, administered by the California Library Connect program, a program funded by the California State Library, is a funding opportunity designed to strengthen broadband infrastructure in public libraries across California. This program prioritizes underserved and hardship-impacted communities by providing up to $100,000 per project for connectivity improvements, $50,000 for internal network infrastructure, and $10,000 for staff training.

Eligible applicants include California public libraries connected to the CalREN (CENIC) network or planning to join via the California Library Connect (CLC) initiative, as well as nonprofit organizations directly supporting public libraries, such as "Friends Of" organizations. The grant covers expenses such as first-year broadband connection costs, network equipment, infrastructure upgrades, training, and network consulting.

The application will be opening on June 2 and will close July 31, 2025.

Awarded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. *State of CA funded.*

Career Online High School

Career Online High School (COHS) program is open to all public libraries in the state and **there is no required local match to participate**. Libraries may opt into the COHS program at any time using the COHS Interest Form, and will receive training and implementation support, have access to the California State Library's universal scholarship supply, and complete a short mid-year and end-of-year report. COHS questions can be sent to cohs@library.ca.gov. *State of CA funded.*

Zip Books

The application period for our 2025-2026 Zip Books program closed Wednesday, May 28. Applications are under review. *State of CA funded.*

Current Projects and Services

California Library Literacy Services – Ongoing

The 2024-2025 CLLS final annual report will open later this summer. See the [Manage Your Grant](#) page for information on data collection. Statewide networking calls are generally the third Wednesday of each month on Zoom. Visit the CLLS training and meeting [calendar.](#) The CLLS website has migrated to the California State Library: https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/clls/ For more information on any of these programs, or to subscribe to the CLLS staff or CLLS directors' listserv, contact clls@library.ca.gov. CLLS is state-funded, and Literacy Initiatives projects are LSTA-funded.

California Libraries Learn (CALL) – professional development for all levels of library staff

- Access live and recorded professional development for all members of your team at [www.callacademy.org.](http://www.callacademy.org)
- [Subscribe to the CALL Letters newsletter](#) for weekly updates.
- Encourage all levels of your staff to get started with [CALL Academy](#).

LSTA-funded.

California Public Libraries Data

The 2025 Library Service Area population estimates of the unduplicated population served by each California public library jurisdiction are available at [California Public Library Statistics - California State Library](#), under the "Library Service Area Populations" section.

The 2024/25 Public Libraries Survey (which collects data on library services from 7/1/2024-6/30/2025) is opening this Fall 2025. Data points collected will be very similar to the previous Public Libraries Survey (see [California Public Library Survey Instructions 2023-2024 - California State Library](#) for reference).

For any questions, please contact LibraryStatistics@library.ca.gov. *LSTA-funded*.

Community-Centered Libraries and PolicyMap access for all library workers

Please note: Due to a lack of LSTA funds in FY 2025-26, **access to PolicyMap is scheduled to end July 31, 2025**.

More info and recorded trainings at: https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/ccl/policymap/
LSTA funded.

COMPASS Project: Resources and Information for Public libraries

At a time when many library systems are facing decreased budgets and may be forced to cut digital subscriptions, a reminder that California offers — at no cost to public schools, districts,

local libraries or students — online educational content and tools with [COMPASS: the California Online Media Program for Access and Student Success](#) (formerly the K-12 Online Resources Program). The purpose of COMPASS from the California State Library is to provide equitable access to online library resources to all K-12 public school students and their families, both in the classroom and after school. *State of CA funded*.

COMPASS provides tools ranging from early literacy support (PebbleGo Science, TeachingBooks for Libraries) to science and climate change resources (Gale Interactive Science, Nat Geo Kids, Environmental Studies) to a suite of performing-arts and history/social studies content (20+ Alexander Street collections).

Timely COMPASS Resources and Information for Public Libraries
- [Slides from recent COMPASS for public libraries training](#)
- Need help setting up access to ALL COMPASS resources? [General program sign up form](#)
- Does your library currently offer Capstone's PebbleGo Science for your youngest patrons? More [information on this statewide resource](#) and [sign up to get PebbleGo Science for your library](#)
- Questions about the [Alexander Street content](#) or set up information? Watch this [recording of a July 2024 training](#) and accompanying [slide deck](#). Remember, the Alexander Street collections include [library performing rights too](#) (with the exception of the National Theatre collection) – a great addition for programming for all ages!
- Stay informed! [Sign up for the COMPASS newsletter](#). And please contact compass@library.ca.gov with any questions.

Parks Pass Program – Ongoing
The final state budget signed by Governor Newsom includes continued funding for the Parks Pass Program. As a result, Parks Passes will remain valid through **December 31, 2026**.

A [toolkit](#) is available to support marketing, circulation, programming, and more. It has been updated to make the information cleaner and more accessible. The public can access information on the State Parks Pass at [checkoutcastateparks.com](#)

If you need more parks passes, bookmarks, or survey flyers, [please fill out the new order form from State Parks.](#) For any questions, email parkspass@library.ca.gov. *State of CA funded.*

Ready – Or Not: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project

California's **Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project** connects communities holding at-risk collections with the resources needed to protect those collections from destruction and make them available to all Californians. In partnership with the Northeast Document Conservation Center, [Ready – Or Not](#) preservation consultants provide consultation and

conduct free site visits for California organizations stewarding cultural resources and then deliver an assessment report with their observations. See below for information on these free services. *State of CA funded.*

FREE Services
California heritage institutions can request free consulting services by filling out an online form, emailing CAready@nedcc.org, or calling 855-501-3020.

Emergency Preparedness Assessments (On-Site)
A team of emergency preparedness consultants based in California conduct free, on-site emergency preparedness assessments for participating organizations and deliver a summary report that documents the organization's current state of emergency preparedness.
Each report includes recommendations for mitigating risks, taking emergency preparedness actions, and completing a disaster plan, thereby providing each with tools to better protect their collections in an emergency, ensuring that California's cultural heritage is preserved into the future.
Schedule a Consultation

Disaster Plan Creation or Update (Remote/Online)
An emergency preparedness consultant will work with you one-on-one to gather the information needed for them to write or update your organization's disaster plan. This work is done remotely.
Request disaster plan assistance

In-Person Wet Salvage Workshops
These in-person workshops cover disaster recovery basics—risk assessment, preparedness, response, and recovery. Participants will analyze two disaster scenarios, practice wet salvage techniques, and gain hands-on experience with a preservation expert. This training enhances annual disaster plan reviews and prepares attendees to be effective first responders. Only open to California-based participants.
Register for Upcoming Workshops

Student Success Cards for All
California legislation signed by the Governor in October 2023 — SB 321 (Ashby) — makes it easier for libraries to put Student Success cards into the hands of every California child who wants one.

Student Success cards give students access to books and online resources from their public library, free of charge, through partnerships with local school districts. The Student Success Cards for All initiative works to ensure that all California students are provided the opportunity to obtain a Student Success card by the third grade.

The legislation asks the State Library to:
- Offer resources to assist public libraries and schools in finding strategies that work best for their communities.
- Coordinate with public libraries to determine the most effective means to ensure each student is provided the opportunity to obtain a Student Success card by third grade.
- Ensure that partnerships between public libraries and schools have been established to issue Student Success cards.

Projects marked "LSTA-funded" are supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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