

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

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State Library News

LDS Newsletter

Please 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.

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

The next call will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration information will be sent closer to the date.

Rural Libraries Community of Practice

The State Library now hosts a monthly Community of Practice for Rural Libraries, occurring on the 4th Wednesday at 3:00 PM. Staff at all levels are welcome to attend. The session dates can be viewed on the Zoom [registration page](#).

Opportunities

Zip Books

The application period for our [2025-2026 Zip Books program](#) is currently open and will close on Wednesday, May 28 at 12:00 noon. [Register to attend](#) the Information Session on Tuesday, May 13 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. The information session will cover recent changes to the program and provide an overview of the opportunity and application process. The Information Session will be recorded and shared following its conclusion. All public libraries are welcome to apply, regardless of if they have run a Zip Books program previously.

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

Groundwork Grants

Groundwork Grants requests applications from eligible California-based cultural institutions for support up to **\$20,000** towards emergency preparedness projects.

Funded by the state of California, through the California State Library, Groundwork Grants is distributing over \$1 million to institutions with collections in California to strengthen emergency preparedness. Maximum awards of \$20,000 are available to institutions with historically and culturally significant collections, prioritizing those that document underrepresented communities.

Apply Now at groundworkgrants.org

Submission Deadline: 11:59pm PT, Monday, June 2, 2025

Staff Contact: Joana Stillwell, Program Officer | joana@myriadconsultants.org

Grant Highlights:

- **Goals:** To provide funds and resources to institutions with historically and culturally significant collections, prioritizing those that document underrepresented and historically excluded communities.
- **Scope:** 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. Applicants are strongly encouraged (but not required) to receive a [free Ready or Not consultation](#) before applying.

- **Awards:** Maximum award amount of \$20,000, with options for emergency preparedness support, including disaster planning development, recovery kits, staff training, environmental monitoring and alert equipment, fire mitigation, project mentorship, preservation supplies, and more.

Current Projects and Services

California Library Literacy Services – Ongoing

The application for continuing funds for current CLLS libraries opened April 17, 2025, and will close May 29, 2025. For links and a recording and slides from the information sessions, see the [Manage Your Grant](#) page. Regular drop-in help sessions via Zoom continue through May. Please see the training calendar link below.

For information on ongoing training, visit the CLLS training and meeting [calendar](#). Monthly networking/community of practice calls for general CLLS topics, family literacy, and ESL are also scheduled for each month. The Adult Learner Leadership Institute project has announced cohort dates for 2025. The CLLS website has migrated to the California State Library: <https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/cls/> For more information on any of these programs, or to subscribe to the CLLS staff or CLLS directors' listserv, contact cls@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 staff at www.callacademy.org.
- [Subscribe to the CALL Letters newsletter](#) for weekly updates.
- Have a good training idea? Anyone can complete the [CALL for Presentations](#).
- Encourage all levels of your staff to get started with [CALL Academy](#).

LSTA-funded.

California Public Libraries Survey

California's 2023-2024 Public Libraries Survey data is being updated and will be available for use by the public and all libraries around May. For questions, contact LibraryStatistics@library.ca.gov

California Revealed

California Revealed is a statewide initiative that helps public libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to archival materials documenting the state's histories, arts, and cultures. The kaleidoscopic view of California cultures and histories represented by California Revealed collections offers

countless opportunities for individuals and communities looking to integrate sources into their course of study as well as into their daily lives. To explore California histories, arts, and cultures, visit the collections available at [California Revealed](#). For questions, please contact CARevealed@library.ca.gov *LSTA-funded*.

[Community-Centered Libraries and PolicyMap access for all library workers](#)

The second year of [Community-Centered Libraries](#), a training initiative presented by the State Library and Pacific Library Partnership, focuses on building the skills of public library workers in two areas:

- Creating data visualizations (such as infographics and report materials)
- Conducting culturally relevant needs assessments

Register for upcoming webinars and view recordings of previous sessions on the [Community-Centered Libraries Webinars page](#). The initiative also includes [free PolicyMap accounts](#) for all California public library staff. The online mapping tool, which includes library jurisdiction boundaries, enables public library staff to view rich data about the communities in your service areas. [Learn more about PolicyMap](#), register for upcoming trainings, view recordings of past trainings, and [request an account today!](#) *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.

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

Parks Passes will be accepted by State Parks until December 31, 2025.

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 checkout.stateparks.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

The [Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project](#) is a California State Library initiative, in partnership with the Northeast Document Conservation Center and Myriad Consulting & Training, to support local assistance grants and support the creation of disaster preparedness plans to protect at-risk art, historically and culturally significant collections that are publicly and privately held among California's underserved and underrepresented communities. To see some of the diverse places the Ready – Or Not team has assessed for disaster preparedness, browse the [Ready – Or Not Participant Showcase](#). State of CA funded.

California organizations that care for cultural and historic resources (e.g., archives, libraries, museums, and tribal nations) can schedule a free emergency preparedness assessment at ["Ready – Or Not": Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project — NEDCC](#). The webpage also provides information sessions tailored to organizations just getting started on their disaster plan, community archives, organizations with limited resources, remote and c museums, tribal cultural heritage organizations, and public libraries. These half-hour online information sessions summarize the state-funded project and explore ways to engage in emergency preparedness consultations. California heritage institutions can request a free emergency preparedness assessment by filling out an [online form](#), emailing CAready@nedcc.org, or calling 855-501-3020.

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.

Projects marked “State of CA funded” are supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library.