

PLP Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant Program Application

Library Name: Oakland Public Library

Project Title: Charging Lockers for Patrons at the Oakland Public Library

Select category you are applying under:

- ☐ Category A: Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant
- ☒ Category B: Grant Replication Program

If Category B is selected, enter the name of the grant you are replicating:

Secure Charging at SJPL (2019) and Secure Charing at CCCL (2021)

1. Please provide a one paragraph project summary.

The Oakland Public Library (OPL) will purchase and install six ChargeTech lockers, each with 8 bays that can securely store cell phones, wallets, keys, and cameras. Each bay includes two types of cables capable of providing a rapid charge to all major types of cell phones. Two of these useful lockers will be installed at the Main Library and one each will be placed at the busy César E. Chávez, Dimond, Eastmont, and West Oakland Branch Libraries. These branches serve large numbers of patrons who currently use electrical outlets to charge their phones, and the lockers will provide a safe and secure way for OPL to meet this demand for a critical service.

2. Explain how this project fits with the library's strategic directions.

This project fits squarely within OPL's strategic goal of "Improving Library Facilities." It also reflects three of OPL's core values: community, responsive services, and empowerment. While the service will be available to everyone, we expect it be particularly useful to people experiencing homelessness. As OPL struggles to support an increasing number of homeless residents in Oakland, improving service to this particularly vulnerable population meets our core values.

A study published in 2019 by the University of California San Francisco surveyed 343 unhoused people older than 50 (the median age of single homeless adults) in Oakland. 72% of respondents owned or had access to a mobile phone. The study showed participants relied on phones to contact their families (82%), communicate with medical personnel (65%), and search

for housing and employment (31%). As this study shows, an active cell phone is an essential resource for people experiencing homelessness. This project will help OPL to keep unhoused patrons connected to these critical resources.

3. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the population served and the demographics of that population.

This project will provide a small but significant improvement to the services that OPL provides to patrons who visit the Main Library and four branch libraries. Two of the 8-bay charging lockers will be installed at the Main Library and the other units will be installed at the César E. Chávez, Dimond, Eastmont, and West Oakland Branch Libraries.

The Main Library is located at 125 14th Street in Oakland. Census data for its downtown zip code (94612) shows that the surrounding population of 16,203 has a 23.6% rate of poverty. Almost 29% of the people living in this zip code were born outside the United States, and the racial and ethnic makeup is 33% white, 26% Black, 24% Asian, 10% Hispanic (of any race), and 5% two or more races.

The César E. Chávez Branch Library is located at 3301 East 12th Street in Oakland. Census tract data for this location shows that this population of 4,721 people has an 18.6% rate of poverty. 46% of people living in this census tract were born outside the United States, and the racial and ethnic makeup is 58% Hispanic (of any race), 16% Asian, 15% white, 9% Black, and 2% two or more races.

The Dimond Branch Library is located at 3565 Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland. Census tract data for this location shows that this population of 2,650 people has a 4.4% rate of poverty. 25.9% of people living in this census tract were born outside the United States, and the racial and ethnic makeup is 53% white, 14% Asian, 14% Hispanic (of any race), 11% Black, and 6% two or more races.

The Eastmont Branch Library is located at 7200 Bancroft Avenue in Oakland. Census tract data for this location shows that this population of 7,159 people has a 22.3% rate of poverty. More than 31% of people living in this census tract were born outside the United States, and the racial and ethnic makeup is 52% Hispanic (of any race), 36% Black, 5% Asian, 3% two or more races, and 3% white.

The West Oakland Branch Library is located at 1801 Adeline Street in Oakland. Census tract data for this location shows that this population of 2,401 people has an 18.9% rate of poverty. 9.8% of people living in this census tract were born outside the United States, and the racial and ethnic makeup is 56% Black, 22% white, 11% Asian, 6% Hispanic (of any race), and 5% two or more races.

It should be noted that this information is from the American Community Survey for 2020, and so it might not accurately capture the significant number of unhoused individuals who live in Oakland. Alameda County's EveryOne Counts project reported 5,054 homeless individuals living in Oakland (1,718 sheltered and 3,336 unsheltered) as of February 23, 2022. OPL is essential to many people experiencing homelessness. It is a free-to-access indoor space that also provides materials and resources (including public computers, social services, restrooms, and electrical outlets.) Improving the safety, security, and convenience of charging phones will be one way in which we can improve services to this vulnerable population.

4. What are the goals and objectives of the project?

The goal of this project is to increase security, safety, and convenience for patrons at OPL's Main Library and four busy branch libraries who want to charge their cell phones. The charging lockers will provide secure sites for phone charging while allowing users to spend time utilizing the library's other resources and services. These device charging stations will enhance safety at the locations as there will be fewer opportunities for theft of unattended cell phones. Additionally, this project will reduce the trip hazards presented by phones plugged into floor outlets.

5. Please include your project timeline (include detail of activities).

November 2022

- Finalize placement of charging lockers and stands at five locations
- Meet with Community Relations Team to plan promotion

December 2022:

- Order, receive, and install charging lockers & accessories

December 2022-January 2023

- Train staff and volunteers in use and promotion of charging lockers

February 2023 and beyond

- Promote charging lockers to library users and non-users

6. Please indicate how you will evaluate success of your project.

The success of this project will be evaluated by usage statistics as well as anecdotal staff and patron feedback. OPL will also analyze data from the Patron Incident Tracking System which will show if the charging lockers have the beneficial impact on reducing theft that is expected.

7. Please detail your project budget. (Note: Indirect costs are not allowed).

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
8 Bay Touchscreen Charging Locker	\$1,595	6	\$9,570
Heavy Duty Floor Stand	220	6	1,320
Replacement Cables, Apple Lightning (10-pack)	250	1	250
Replacement Cables, Type C & Micro USB (10-pack)	200	2	400
Tax (estimate)			894
Shipping (estimate)	80	12	960
Total:			\$13,397

Note: OPL is prepared to pay for costs exceeding \$12,000 with grant funds from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library so that the grant can be successfully implanted as planned.

8. Please indicate how the project will be sustained after the grant term is over.

There should be few ongoing expenses associated with this project. OPL plans to purchase replacement cables as suggested by the vendor, and we will be looking into extended warranty options as well. The demand on staff time is likewise expected to be minimal after the grant term is over.

Complete Only for Category B Grants:

9. Explain what grant was selected to replicate and why.

OPL chose to replicate two grants: *Secure Charing at CCCL* from 2021-22 and *Secure Charging at SJPL* from 2019-20. These projects appealed to OPL staff because they increase safety, security, and convenience for the large numbers of patrons who wish to charge their cell phones at the library. This is a popular service which will be greatly improved through the implementation of this grant.

10. If there are changes or enhancements to the original grant, including budgetary changes, please detail the changes and your rationale for making them.

OPL's project differs only in the number of units being purchased. This change (purchasing six rather than four or five units) reflects the current needs at OPL.