

**PLP Administrative Council Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Friday, May 16, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunnyvale City Hall, Bay Room – 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086**

- |             |  |          |                      |
|-------------|--|----------|----------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Meeting Called to Order and Introductions</b>   | Theyer   |                      |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>Approval of Consent Items (Action Item)</b>   | Theyer   |                      |
|             | A. Adoption of the Agenda  |          |                      |
|             | B. Approval of May 17, 2024 Minutes  |          | Attachment 1, pg. 3  |
|             | C. PLP FY 2024-25 Innovation Grants  |          | Attachment 2, pg. 5  |
|             | D. Correspondence  |          |                      |
|             | 1. Advocacy Correspondence to California State Senator Laird and Assemblymember Alvarez  |          | Attachment 3, pg. 6  |
|             | 2. Advocacy Correspondence to California State Senator Wiener  |          | Attachment 4, pg. 10 |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>New Business</b>  |          |                      |
|             | A. Election of FY 2025-26 Executive Committee and Officers ( <b>Action Item</b> )  | Theyer   | Attachment 5, pg. 15 |
|             | B. Update on the Greater Opportunities for Leadership Development Program (PLP GOLD)   | Herrera  |                      |
|             | C. State Library Report  | Chisom   | Attachment 6, pg. 16 |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>Presentations</b>   |          |                      |
|             | A. Presentations from FY 2024-25 Innovation and Technology Grant Recipients  |          |                      |
|             | 1. Sustainable Living<br>Pleasanton Public Library   | Bushong  |                      |
|             | 2. Sustainable Future: Integrating AI, 3d Printing, and Virtual Reality into Learning Experiences<br>Burlingame Public Library | DeLara   |                      |
|             | 3. Placemaking – Find Yourself @ the Library<br>Hayward Public Library   | Addleman |                      |
|             | B. Advocacy Strategies   | Doyle    |                      |
|             | <i>Guest Speaker: Deborah Doyle,<br/>ALA's United for Libraries, President</i>   |          |                      |

C. IMLS Elimination, CLSA Funding, and the PLP Budget Frost Attachment 7, pg. 25

D. PLP Strategic Priorities Update Frost Attachment 8, pg. 31

**V. Reports**

A. PLP CEO's Report Frost

**VI. Public Comment** – (Individuals are allowed three minutes, groups in attendance five minutes. It is System policy to refer matters raised in this forum to staff for further investigation or action if appropriate. The Brown Act prohibits the Administrative Council from discussing or acting on any matter not agendaized pursuant to State law.)

**VII. Announcements**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Lunch will be provided at the adjournment of the meeting.



## Pacific Library Partnership

### PLP Administrative Council Annual Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 17, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Milpitas Public Library – 160 North Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

Administrative Council Members		
Tracy Gray (Pres.) – Mountain View	Tom Rosko – Naval Postgraduate	Mary Abler – San Mateo County
Deb Sica – Alameda County	Jamie Turbak - Oakland	Patty Wong – Santa Clara City
Mike Eitner – Alameda Free	Alex Perez – Palo Alto	Jennifer Weeks – Santa Clara County
Tess Mayer – Berkeley	Heidi Murphy - Pleasanton	Valerie Sommers – S. San Francisco
Brad McCulley - Burlingame	Sarah La Torra – Redwood City	Michelle Perera - Sunnyvale
Jacqueline Grallo – CSUMB	Kate Eppler - Richmond	Alicia Martinez - Watsonville
Chela Anderson – Daly City	Francis Herbert - Salinas	
Ashlee Wright – Harrison Memorial	Tim Wallace – San Bruno	
Jayanti Addleman - Hayward	Michael Lambert – San Francisco	
Carol Pham – Los Gatos	Michelle Ornat – San Jose	
Hillary Theyer – Monterey County	Brian Simons – San Leandro	
Brian Edwards – Monterey Public	Teresa Morris – SMCCCD	
Other Attendees		
Carol Frost – PLP	Kelsey Nordstrom Sanchez - CSUMB	Scott Young - PLS
Justin Wasterlain – PLP	Lia Bushong - Pleasanton	
Luis Herrera – PLP	Josh Chisom – California State Library	

#### I. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions

President Gray called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### II. Approval of Consent Items

##### A. Adoption of the Agenda

##### B. Approval of May 13, 2022 Minutes

##### C. PLP FY 2022-23 Innovation Grants

A motion was made, and approved unanimously, to approve the consent items. (M/S Theyer/Wallace)

#### III. New Business

##### A. Election of FY 2024-25 Executive Committee and Officers

Gray reviewed the outgoing and incoming members of the Executive Committee and announced the slate of officers for FY 2024-25. A motion was made, and passed unanimously, to approve Hillary Theyer as President and Tim Wallace as Vice-President for FY 2024-25. (M/S Sommer/Murphy)

##### B. Introduction to the Greater Opportunities for Leadership Development Program (PLP GOLD)

Luis Herrera introduced a new middle management leadership program he has designed and will facilitate in FY 2024-25. The program is called Greater Opportunities for Leadership Development (PLP GOLD).

**IV. Presentations**

**A. Presentations from FY 2023-24 Innovation and Technology Grant Recipients**

Kelsey Nordstrom-Sanchez from CSUMB, Lia Bushong from Pleasanton, and Alicia Martinez from Watsonville gave presentations to share information about their FY 2023-24 Innovation and Technology grants.

**B. PLP Regional System Presentations**

Brian Simons (San Leandro, BALIS), Ashlee Wright (Harrison Memorial, MOBAC), Brad McCulley (Burlingame, PLS), Tracy Gray (Mountain View, SVLS), and Jennifer Weeks (Santa Clara County, SVLS) gave presentations on the activities of their regional systems. Simons discussed a regional marketing campaign across BALIS for Libby utilizing Spotify. Wright gave an overview on cooperative activities and individual milestones of MOBAC libraries. McCulley provided an overview of the PLS consortia. Gray and Weeks shared information about the Silicon Valley Reads program.

**C. PLP Strategic Priorities Update and Input**

Wasterlain provided an overview of FY 2023-24 Strategic Activities. He asked Council members to engage in an activity to help create activities for FY 2024-25. Member input will be reviewed and new activities will be synthesized and presented to the Executive Committee at its June meeting.

**V. Reports**

**A. State and Federal Initiatives**

Weeks and Martinez provided an update on CLA's legislative priorities and bills relevant to libraries, including SB321 which requires all students to receive a public library card by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and AB1825 which would attempt to restrict book bans at public libraries. Frost announced the Governor's May revised budget proposes to cut funding for Lunch at the Library programs and reduce CLSA funds by \$1.8M.

**B. State Library Report**

Chisom provided an update about California State Library activities and opportunities.

**C. PLP CEO's Report**

Frost provided a brief report on PLP activities.

**VI. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**VII. Adjournment**

President Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

# INNOVATION GRANTS 2024-25

## **SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: INTEGRATING AI, 3D PRINTING, AND VR INTO LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

*Burlingame Library*

## **SENSORY-FRIENDLY STUDY PODS**

*California State University Monterey Bay*

## **PLACEMAKING - FIND YOURSELF @ THE LIBRARY**

*Hayward Library*

## **LIBRARY OF THINGS: OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

*Monterey County Free Libraries*

## **POWER UP! AT MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Monterey Public Library*

## **ON DEMAND WIRELESS CHARGING**

*Mountain View Public Library*

## **SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

*Pleasanton Public Library*

## **REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

*San Bruno Public Library*

## **POWER UP! SECURE CHARGING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AT CSM LIBRARY**

*San Mateo County Community College District*

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ARTS AND TRAVEL THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY**

*South San Francisco Public Library*

## **10 LIBRARY PROJECTS**

**\$92,354 AWARDED**



April 21, 2025

The Honorable David Alvarez, Chair  
 Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 on Education Finance  
 1021 O Street, Suite 5320  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
 Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education Finance  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **STATE LIBRARY – 6120**  
**1) California Library Services Act**  
**2) Lunch at the Library**  
**3) Federal LSTA Dollars at risk**

Dear Chair Alvarez and Chair Laird:

The Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) respectfully requests your support in restoring funding to two crucial public library programs in the 2025-26 State Budget: the California Library Services Act and Lunch at the Library. While we know the state is facing a challenging Budget this year, these two programs provide vital services to Californians and are worthy of your continued support. PLP is a library cooperative of 43 public and community college libraries located in San Francisco Bay Area (including the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz). The mission of PLP is to empower member libraries through innovation, collaboration, and training.

PLP would also like to note our significant concerns regarding the potential vulnerability of almost \$16 million in federal funds that California receives annually for public library programs. If the federal Budget were to cut these dollars to California, the negative impact would be felt in countless programs that our patrons rely on and could not be backfilled by local libraries. The threat to this federal funding makes the need for these California funds even more critical.

#### **CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT – 6120-211-0001**

*\$750,000 increase requested (ongoing appropriation)*

The state is broken down into nine library regions or “Systems” to maximize resources among libraries in that geographic footprint more effectively. PLP is one of the nine cooperative systems which receives funding from the California Library Services Act (CLSA). The California Library Services Act has existed for more than five decades and provides direct funding to the Systems. A portion of the state dollars for the CLSA reimburses public libraries for moving books and materials back and forth between libraries to promote the collaborative sharing of collections and to provide a greater depth of resources to library patrons. In recent

years, funding has also supported the purchase of digital catalogs and subscriptions that can be shared between System members. Put simply, most of the smaller libraries in a System would never be able to afford to purchase these subscriptions on their own as it would be extremely cost-prohibitive. The CLSA effectively creates a so-called “bigger bang for the buck” for all libraries.

At its highest point, approximately 25 years ago, the CLSA was funded at \$26 million. In 2011, during the Recession years, the CLSA baseline was \$12.9 million, and Governor Brown zeroed out every last dollar in the fund. Since that time, libraries have attempted to restore the funding, bringing the baseline back to \$3.6 million in recent years, which is still substantially below the amount that is appropriate to fund the needs of the library systems and the millions of patrons in California who use the public library annually. Governor Newsom proposed zeroing out the funding entirely to address last year’s Budget deficit. However, the legislature felt it was essential to restore half of the funding in the 2024-25 State Budget last year. The CLSA baseline now stands at \$1.8 million, which equates to 5 cents per person in California. Specifically, the impact of these cuts are:

- Rural and tribal libraries feel the impacts of budget cuts more profoundly and encounter barriers to materials and information due to their geographic remoteness and isolation.
- Deep cuts to annual eBook and audiobook purchases.
- Impacts to Link+ - a resource-sharing platform that provides access to more than 7,605,546 titles.
- Cuts to materials purchased in multiple languages to meet the needs of communities.
- Severely disrupting the ability of libraries to collaboratively loan and lend books and materials by physical transport, at 5 million items annually for a cost of 18 cents per item.

The PLP region is diverse, with a population of approximately 8.5% economically disadvantaged, and 44% non-English speaking, spanning both urban and rural areas. Library budgets range from a few thousand dollars to several million. 23 of the libraries have budgets below \$10M. CLSA funds directly help the underserved communities within our area. PLP uses CLSA funds for the courier services that delivered over 2.5 million books and library materials among libraries, travelling more than 50,000 miles to reach the more densely as well as the sparsely populated areas within PLP. The sharing of books and educational materials between libraries creates efficiencies, so that each library does not need to use local resources to add those items to the collection, and is a baseline equity issue, so that whether our residents live in rural or urban areas, they all have access to materials they need.

Here are some direct quotes from some of our library directors:

*“CLSA funds enable the San Benito County Free Library to enhance services for underserved groups, helping to address the challenges faced by recent budget cuts within our county. These funds allow us to purchase eMaterials in multiple languages and on various topics of interest for our patrons and community, ensuring equitable access to library resources, benefitting those individuals who face language barriers, people with disabilities, and those with limited mobility or lack transportation to visit the library in person.”*

*“San Leandro Public Library uses CLSA funds for LINK+, which helps us serve underserved groups by providing materials we simply will never have enough money, expertise, or space to collect in a meaningful way. San Leandro is one of the more diverse cities in the country; however, it’s population is only 90,000*

*people, with many little pockets of people who speak various languages. LINK+ helps us provide for the underserved by connecting English speakers to materials the library simply cannot buy because of its size."*

*"Times are getting harder and harder. I would have to cut some other services to pay for this."*

*"Our city is asking for cuts as well, so this impact is much greater than it might be normally. There is a chain reaction effect from the cut. Every dollar counts. I'm combing my budget to cut over \$200K. There's not a lot of room to cut that much without cutting services."*

Finally, because several subscription-based contracts were already negotiated before the 2024-25 State Budget year reductions, libraries must now make painful decisions regarding what other valuable services will be cut to honor existing contracts, while staff positions have been eliminated due to last year's cut.

### **LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY – 6120-140-0001**

*\$750,000 increase requested (ongoing appropriation)*

Last year, the Governor's May Revision proposed the elimination of the entire baseline of \$5.5 million for the "Lunch at the Library" program. Thankfully, the legislature saved the program from total elimination by restoring \$3 million for the critically important statewide food and enrichment program.

Lunch at the Library, operated by the State Library and California's public libraries, serves thousands of California children and teens who need a nutritious meal during the summer months. In the Summer of 2024, California public libraries worked with community partners to serve over 360,234 meals to children and teens at 201 public library and community meal sites. In a Lunch at the Library report released by the State Library, they offer a quote from the San Diego Public Library remarking about one of their participants in the program: *"The family was incredibly grateful for the meals provided, as they were the only meals their children would eat that day. Through the lunch program, the family discovered the library as a trusted community resource – a place where they could feed their children nutritious meals and participate in enrichment programs."*

One significant benefit of providing lunch for youth at the library is that the public library is a judgment-free, safe, and welcoming space where children and their caregivers feel encouraged to attend and receive a meal. The corresponding enrichment programs offered at Lunch sites create an opportunity to enhance literacy skills or participate in a fun learning experience while receiving a meal. Caregivers are also beneficiaries when attending the Lunch programs with a child or teen, as they can receive essential connections to critical wrap-around stabilization services.

Thanks to a partnership between some public libraries and the local food pantry, families at several rural public library sites are eligible to take home non-perishable food to sustain them through the week.

In Budget year 2022-23, the legislature and Governor provided \$5 million in ongoing funding for the program, which was elevated and championed by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and the State Library then. Designating the funds as "ongoing" in nature allowed the public libraries to plan for the program consistently. The \$2 million reduction in 2024-25 has decreased services and limited the expansion of this program, which disproportionately hurts low-income children and teens at a time when high inflation continues to compound food insecurity challenges of many families.



## **FEDERAL LSTA DOLLARS AT RISK**

Finally, PLP is deeply concerned with the ongoing uncertainty regarding federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding under the current Administration. On March 14, President Trump issued an Executive Order which would essentially dismantle the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Grants to States program, administered by IMLS, provides California nearly \$16 million as Library Services and Technology Act funds, benefiting the 1,128 library outlets statewide.

Public libraries use this federal funding for e-book purchases, including materials in 20 languages and materials focused on K-12 students. Additionally, the funds support summer reading programs, the Braille and Talking Books Library, patron access to newspapers, and California-specific historical items. In addition, LSTA funds support community-based grants that can be targeted to specific needs, including support for early childhood development, literacy, services to Veterans, workforce development, and much more.

We deeply appreciate that California joined the lawsuit submitted by Rhode Island on April 4 to contest this action. We know that the legislature is keeping a close eye on the impacts of the loss of federal dollars for various California programs, and we ask you to include public libraries in that growing list of vulnerable funds. A loss of any portion of the \$16 million federal funds designated for California would devastate our public libraries statewide and could not be backfilled locally.

Thank you for considering these issues and support when the State Library budget is before your subcommittee for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Frost" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Frost, CEO, Pacific Library Partnership

cc: Members of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance  
Mark Martin, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance  
Diego Lopez, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance  
Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyist, KP Public Affairs – [cdicaro@ka-pow.com](mailto:cdicaro@ka-pow.com)

May 8, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Krista Pfefferkorn and Jeff Sparks

**RE: STATE LIBRARY – 6120 California Library Services Act and Zip Books Clarification:  
Augmentation Request and Assistance with Line Item De-coupling**

Dear Senator Wiener, Krista Pfefferkorn, and Jeff Sparks,

Thank you so much for meeting with me and with Michael Lambert, the San Francisco Library Director on April 24, 2025 regarding the request of support for the restoration of funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA). As you recall, I am the CEO of the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP). PLP is a library cooperative of 43 public and community college libraries located in the San Francisco Bay Area (including the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz).

The purpose of this letter is to provide additional details that you had requested regarding CLSA funds and Zip Books. Additionally, we would respectfully request the assistance of Senator Wiener and your office to help the library community de-couple these two disparate Budget items so that they are identified by distinct and separate line items under the State Library budget. As we recently discussed with your office, the current co-mingling of the CLSA and Zip Books funding into one line item (6120 - #211 Local Assistance) is creating significant confusion, both among public libraries themselves and in our efforts to lobby members of the legislature regarding funding restoration. We also discussed moving a portion of the Zip Books allocation to offset the 50% reduction of CLSA allocation.

#### BACKGROUND

##### California Library Services Act

The California Library Services Act exists to support libraries in ensuring all Californians have access to free materials to pursue their lifelong learning goals. The state is broken down into a series of nine library regions or “Cooperative Library Systems” in order to more effectively maximize resources among libraries in that geographic footprint (PLP is one of those regions). The California Library Services Act has been in existence for more than 5 decades and provides direct funding to the Systems. The CLSA exists for resource sharing, and of the 187 library jurisdictions statewide, 181 of them are affiliated with a system and use these funds to share

resources, creating an economy of scale much larger and more efficient than if each library were to purchase materials on their own. Statewide, CLSA funds support courier services to share more than 5 million physical items between libraries annually, at 18 cents per item. This exchange of resources is particularly important because some smaller libraries do not have the materials budgets to purchase the large amount of books that larger libraries can afford. CLSA funds are also used to purchase shared eCollections (eBooks, eMagazines) in languages spoken in local communities, used nearly 2 million times annually. When funding for the CLSA is decreased, the access to these materials becomes limited.

At its highest point, the CLSA was funded at \$26 million approximately 25 years ago. During the Recession, Governor Brown eliminated all of the remaining funding in the Act in 2011, which at the time, totaled \$12.9 million. The library community has painstakingly tried to build back up the funding but has been challenged to bring the baseline higher than \$3.6 million. Governor Newsom proposed zeroing out the funding completely in order to address last year's Budget deficit. However, the legislature felt it was important to restore half of the funding in the 2024-25 State Budget last year. The CLSA baseline now stands at \$1.8 million, which equates to 5 cents per person in California.

Distribution for the CLSA is determined by the California Library Services Act Board (CLSB) – a body of individuals appointed by the Governor, Senate President pro Tem, and Assembly Speaker. Typically – but not always – the Board meets at least two times a year for the purpose of determining the dollar amounts that will be awarded to each of the nine regional Systems. The Board portions off the dollars that are currently in the CLSA Budget baseline. (e.g. This year, the Board should be determining how the \$1.8 million is to be allocated.) The Board also has the authority to welcome new libraries into the System cooperatives.

### Zip Books Program

The [Zip Books](#) program started in 2011 as a pilot using federal funds. The original idea was that for rural, remote, and areas of more economic need, a library patron can request a book from the library. If the library does not own the book, library staff can order the book and mail it directly to the customer. When the customer is done with the book, they give it to the library, and the item is added to the collection. This funding benefits a small number of libraries statewide annually and the program is popular with the disabled community and home bound seniors.

A February 2025 communication to the library community, titled “From the Desk of the State Librarian,” reads: “One innovative program – Zip Books – uses the online marketplace to get books to Californians in rural areas faster and helps libraries have more copies of the books people want to read – at lesser cost. ***Federal funds are used by the state to administer the program.***” (emphasis added)

While the State Library posts a formal grant application form on its website to determine which libraries receive Zip book funds, in recent years the CLSB has been “approving” the Zip Book budget allocation during their meetings. There is historical data indicating that at one time, CLSA funds were used for Zip books nearly 10 years ago, but in more recent years, the State Budget has considered Zip Books as a separate program.

### THE LINE ITEM CONFUSION

During our conversation on April 24, Jeff had noted that the Governor’s January 2025-26 budget appears to include \$2.8 million for CLSA under line item #211 – Local Assistance, not \$1.8 million as represented by me, Michael Lambert, and the library community. We had explained that for some unknown reason, a couple of years ago funding for Zip Books had been co-mingled with the CLSA funds into the same line item – and yet, the two programs: 1) are markedly different, and 2) the approval of funds is a completely dissimilar process. It is our fear that without the decoupling of these two line items, the legislature and Department of Finance will have no clear understanding as to the true status of these programs and some will continue to believe that there is \$2.8 million available in the CLSA for allocation to the Systems, which is far from the truth.

An important distinction between the two programs, CLSA and Zip Books, is that CLSA funds are given to the nine cooperative systems, who use the funds in their geographic region, within the confines of California Law, and report on the usage. Zip Books are administered by the State Library, serving individual libraries and not the library cooperative systems.

Below is a brief synopsis of the two programs and their historical funding:

- In FY 2016-17, \$1.8 million in ongoing funds were allocated to the CLSA, bringing the baseline to \$3.6 million.
- In FY 2016-17, \$1 million in one-time funds were provided to the State Library to create a statewide Zip Book pilot program, but those limited Zip Book funds were ultimately exhausted. Of note, Zip Books had its own line item in the Budget this year.
- For the first time, in FY 2018-19, it appears that Zip Book funding and the CLSA were inexplicably co-mingled into the same line item when Governor Brown included \$1.5 million in one-time funds in his Budget for Zip Books, which was subsequently approved by the legislature.
- The 2021-22 State Budget was historic in its treatment of public libraries, by providing an unprecedented \$500 million for various library programs, including \$439 million for library infrastructure grants. As part of that Budget, the California Library Services Act received a restoration of \$1.75 million, which helped to bring the CLSA back to \$3.6 million to address a 50% cut made in 2020-21.
- The 2021-22 State Budget also included \$1 million in ongoing funds for Zip Books. While the CLSA and Zip Books are all clearly and very separately spelled out in the “Major Program Changes” of the California State Library budget on page 2 and 3 (see attached),

the funds were co-mingled on page 7 of the State Library Budget under “Local Assistance: 211 Budget Act appropriation.” The ongoing funds for the CLSA and Zip Books have been co-mingled ever since.

- A possible justification for combining the two funds may be found in the Governor’s reference to Zip Books being an “alternative to traditional interlibrary loan.” This text was provided to a cooperative by Annly Roman at the State Library in response to their inquiry about the “coupling” issue:
  - *“The Governor refers to Online Service Systems (Zip Books) in his 2021-2022 introduced budget summary allocating \$1 million in on-going funding to support Zip Books. He writes: “Online Service Systems (Zip Books)—An increase of \$1 million ongoing General Fund to support the online purchase and delivery of library books through the Zip Books Program. This no-cost service is an alternative to traditional interlibrary loan and enables library patrons to more efficiently request and receive books not available at their local library.”*
  - *In 2021-2022, in addition to the Zip Books allocation mentioned above, the Governor also increased the standard California Library Services Act allocation. For this increase he used the following language: “California Library Services Act—An increase of \$1.75 million ongoing General Fund to restore the 2020 Budget Act reduction to the California Library Services Act.” Note: Although these two programs were in the same line item, he addressed them separately. (emphasis added)*
  - *In the budget finance letter that was released with the May revision last year (May 2024), detailing the changes to the budget, the language used for the decrease in funding that impacted the California Library Services Act budget line was: “Item 6120-211-0001, Local Assistance, Library Services Act Program (Issue 044)—It is requested that Item 6120-211-0001 be decreased by \$1,750,000 ongoing for the Library Services Act Program.” The finance letter language did not include the “Online Service systems” program which is the language the Governor uses for the Zip Books allocation.”*

While the CLSA and Zip Books are both providing important levels of assistance to California patrons, the library community believes that the two programs are distinctly different and should be separated by giving the CLSA its own line item and Zip Books its own line item. The 50-year-old CLSA statute seems to suggest that the Board has the authority to approve CLSA funds only.

As evidenced by the conversation that we had with your office: legislators find it confusing when library leaders are advocating for an increase in the baseline of the CLSA and yet those legislators are reading a baseline figure which tells a different story (because Zip Books has co-opted the CLSA). It is also important to “sunshine” the Zip Books program, in order to remind the Department of Finance and the Legislature that they have created an ongoing funding appropriation which should be subject to the same annual Budget Subcommittee review and analysis that the CLSA encounters.

Lastly, during our meeting, we discussed the possibility of using \$500,000 of Zip Books funds in order to restore some of the recent reductions to the CLSA service. This fund shift would have a tremendous benefit to libraries and could stave off some of the service disruption to library patrons. The Zip Books program has not seen a reduction in its allocation, while CLSA funds have been cut by 50%, and other programs, such as Lunch at the Library, have also been cut.

Thank you for your consideration of both our funding request and our request to de-couple the two programs from the same line item. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [frost@plpinfo.org](mailto:frost@plpinfo.org), or call me at 650-867-8355.

Sincerely,



Carol Frost  
CEO, Pacific Library Partnership

cc: Michael Lambert, San Francisco Library Director  
Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyist, KP Public Affairs – [cdicaro@ka-pow.com](mailto:cdicaro@ka-pow.com)  
Genesis Hansen, California Library Association President

For Reference:

The California Library Services Board approves the CLSA allocation to the regional cooperative library systems.

- In FY 2019-20, the CLSB approved \$3,630,000 of CLSA funds and the budget also included \$1M of 'one-time funding Zip Books'
- FY 2020-21, the CLSA was cut by 50%, to \$1,880,000. The CLSB's approved budget did not include any funds for Zip Books.
- FY 2021-22 the CLSB's approved budget included \$3,630,000 and \$1,000,000 for Zip Books
- FY 2022-23 the CLSB's approved budget included \$3,630,000 and \$1,000,000 for Zip Books
- FY 2023-24 the CLSB's approved budget included \$3,630,000 and \$1,000,000 for Zip Books
- FY 2024-25 the CLSB's approved budget included \$1,880,000 and \$1,000,000 for Zip Books





## **Election of the FY 2025-26 Executive Committee and Officers**

**The PLP Nominating Committee formed by Tim Wallace and Ashlee Wright is pleased to nominate the following for FY 2025-26:**

**New candidates to serve on the PLP Executive Committee (first year of first term):**

Jefferey Sundquist, Monterey Peninsula College Library (MOBAC)  
Anne Marie Despain, San Mateo County Libraries (PLS)

**The Nominating Committee is also pleased to propose the following slate of officers for FY 2025-26:**

President: Hillary Theyer  
Vice-President: Tim Wallace

**The following will be serving the second year of their first term:**

Gayathri Kanth, Palo Alto City Library

**The following will be serving the first year of their second term:**

Alison McKee, Contra Costa County Library  
Tim Wallace, San Bruno Public Library  
Michelle Perera, Sunnyvale Public Library

**The following will be serving the second year of their second term:**

Tess Mayer, Berkeley Public Library  
Hillary Theyer, Monterey County Free Libraries

**Our thanks and appreciation to the following Executive Committee member, who have completed their term:**

Elnora (Ellie) Tayag, San Mateo Community College District  
Ashlee Wright, Harrison Memorial Library (Carmel)

California State Library, Library Development Services  
Cooperative Library System Liaison Report  
*Updated May 6, 2025*

State Library News .....	2
LDS Newsletter.....	2
Marketing Toolkits .....	2
California Freedom To Read Act .....	2
Networking and Training .....	2
Public Library Directors Networking Call .....	2
Rural Libraries Community of Practice .....	3
Opportunities.....	3
Zip Books .....	3
Career Online High School .....	3
Groundwork Grants .....	3
Current Projects and Services .....	4
California Library Literacy Services – Ongoing.....	4
California Libraries Learn (CALL) – professional development for all levels of library staff .....	4
California Public Libraries Survey.....	4
California Revealed.....	4
Community-Centered Libraries and PolicyMap access for all library workers .....	5
COMPASS Project: Resources and Information for Public libraries.....	5
Parks Pass Program – Ongoing.....	6
Ready – Or Not: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project .....	6
Student Success Cards for All.....	6



## 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 is sent through the directors' listserv.

### Rural Libraries Community of Practice

The State Library now hosts a monthly Community of Practice for Rural Libraries, occurring on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](https://groundworkgrants.org)

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

**Staff Contact:** Joana Stillwell, Program Officer | [joana@myriadconsultants.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:compass@library.ca.gov) with any questions.

### Parks Pass Program – Ongoing

As a result of budget legislation signed by the Governor in late June, 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 [checkoutcastateparks.com](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

**From:** [Csl\\_info](#) on behalf of [Lucas, Greg@CSL via Csl\\_info](#)  
**To:** [csl\\_info@lists.californialibrarylists.org](mailto:csl_info@lists.californialibrarylists.org)  
**Subject:** [Csl\_info] Federal Funding Cuts & California Libraries  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:43:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.txt](#)

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May 6, 2025

California library directors:

In early April, the Trump administration eliminated the California State Library's 2024-2025 Grants to States award by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). There was no assurance made of future funding.

On May 5, the State Library received a notification from the IMLS saying that our grant for the current fiscal year had been restored and that they intend to issue a partial payment for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

None of these promised payments have been made to California as yet. Other state libraries have received award letters for next year totaling about 50 percent of their current year's allotments.

Considering this uncertainty about federal funding and California's own budget shortfalls, the State Library cannot make funding commitments to the programs and services listed below for the state fiscal year that begins July 1, 2025.

Contact the State Library's Library Development Services Bureau with questions: [cslllds@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslllds@library.ca.gov).

This is the list:

- **California's Bookshelf and eBooks for All California:** a statewide eBook library for California
- **California Libraries Learn:** professional development and leadership training for library workers
- **California Revealed:** digitization and preservation services and online access to archival materials
- **Literacy Initiatives:** training and resources for library literacy programs, including the Adult Learner Leadership Institute, support for the Easy Voter Guide and Writer to Writer, and subscriptions for libraries to ProLiteracy and Reading Horizons
- **Public Library Staff Education Program:** tuition reimbursement for library workers studying to become librarians.
- **Building Community-Based Summers:** training and resources for library staff presenting summer reading programs
- **Youth and Family Book to Action:** books and resources to support civic and community engagement.

**Networking California Library Resources:** including the Get Involved volunteer engagement project and Volunteer Match subscriptions, the Public Library Directors Forum, access to the New York Times and CalMatters for Learning, listservs used by the library community to share information and resources, and an AI Collaborative helping to ensure that California libraries are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities and address the challenges presented by AI.

- **The State Library's 2025-2026 competitive grant programs:**
  - **Community Impact:** grants for libraries to respond to local needs and aspirations and support experimentation and research
  - **Play for All:** grants for welcoming family play spaces and programming in libraries
  - **Teens Succeed:** grants for teen internships in libraries
  - **Sustainable California Libraries:** grants for climate and sustainability programming in libraries
  - **eBooks for All:** funds for libraries to add books to the eBook library

The State Library is trying to find ways to continue providing access to content that has been created or purchased with federal funds. This content includes the California Revealed website and repository, the CALL Academy website and training content, the Get Involved clearinghouse, training materials from the Community-Centered Libraries project, and California's Bookshelf/Palace eBook platform.

We will provide updates on these resources as we have them. If you applied to the 2025-2026 Community Impact, Play for All, Teens Succeed, Sustainable California Libraries, or eBooks for All grant programs, you should have received a separate message about your grant application from the Library Development Services Bureau.

Our team read each application closely and we value the work that went into preparing and submitting each one. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss your application with a member of our team. We would be glad to provide you with feedback that we hope will help you find alternative sources of funding for your project and will hold a copy of the applications should money become available in the future. Use this email address: [cslllds@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslllds@library.ca.gov).

The State Library remains committed to supporting and partnering with the California library community. We're all stronger when we work together.

-- Greg Lucas, State Librarian



# Explanation of State and Federal Funds

## AS IT RELATES TO PLP BUDGET

1



### LIBRARIES ARE UNDER ATTACK

- 1/27/25 – Federal funding freeze for grant programs (rescinded).
- 3/14/25 – Executive Order functionally dismantling the IMLS
- 3/31/25 – IMLS staff placed on Administrative Leave
- 4/8/25 – IMLS grant termination letters sent to grantees
- 5/8/25 – Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, fired without cause
  - Hayden had come under backlash from a conservative advocacy group that had vowed to root out those standing in the way of Trump's agenda. The group, American Accountability Foundation, accused her and other library leaders of promoting children's books with "radical" content and literary material authored by Trump opponents.

"The current #LibrarianOfCongress Carla Hayden is woke, anti-Trump, and promotes trans-ing kids," AAF said on its X account earlier Thursday, just hours before the firing was made public. "It's time to get her OUT and hire a new guy for the job!"

Associated Press. "President Trump fires Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden." *NPR*, May 9, 2025

2

## State Funds: California Library Services Act (CLSA)

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The **California State Library** (CSL), through the **California Library Services Act** (CLSA), encourages public libraries to engage in cooperative efforts with neighboring libraries, and supports those cooperative efforts through the funding of **California Cooperative Library Systems**

*The highest uses of CLSA funds statewide include:*

- ✓ Support delivery service between libraries to share over **5 million items** annually, at 18 cents per item. Funding ensures that materials reach rural and isolated populations.
- ✓ Purchase shared eCollections (eBooks, eMagazines) which are used nearly **2 million times** annually.
- ✓ Support a shared collection of physical materials (Link+) among 70 library jurisdictions statewide of over **2 million items**.

3

## PLP Use of CLSA Funds

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- ✓ Delivery/Courier services within each region – over 2.6 million items moved annually
- ✓ Money back to libraries for shared resources among 3 or more libraries (Link+, CloudLibrary, OverDrive, Broadband)
- ✓ Shared Flipster subscription for 8 of the smallest libraries
- ✓ Supports PLP website with systemwide staff directory, grant information, and job postings.

4

## PLP Use of CLSA Funds What our Directors Say

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*"San Leandro Public Library uses CLSA funds for LINK+, which helps us serve underserved groups by providing materials we simply will never have enough money, expertise, or space to collect in a meaningful way. San Leandro is one of the more diverse cities in the country; however, it's population is only 90,000 people, with many little pockets of people who speak various languages. LINK+ helps us provide for the underserved by connecting English speakers to materials the library simply cannot buy because of its size."*

*"Times are getting harder and harder." "I would have to cut some other services to pay for this."*

5

## PLP Use of CLSA Funds What our Directors Say

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*"CLSA funds enable the San Benito County Free Library to enhance services for underserved groups, helping to address the challenges faced by recent budget cuts within our county. These funds will allow us to purchase eMaterials in multiple languages and on various topics of interest for our patrons and community, ensuring equitable access to library resources. This will benefit those individuals who face language barriers, people with disabilities, and those with limited mobility or lack transportation to visit the library in person."*

*"Our city is asking for cuts as well, so this impact is much greater than it might be normally. There is a chain reaction effect from the cut. Every dollar counts. I'm combing my budget to cut over \$200K. There's not a lot of room to cut that much without cutting services."*

6

## State Reduction of CLSA Funds

The California budget for FY24-25 and FY25-26 includes a 50% reduction in CLSA funds. This means fewer resources can be made available to your libraries.

Discontinuing shared Flipster subscription for FY 25-26

Difficult to get funds back once cut

FY2023-24 PLP Allocation CLSA funds  
**\$711,307**  
(Total CLSA budget \$3,630,000)

FY 24-25 PLP Allocation CLSA Funds  
**\$367,803**  
(CLSA 50% Reduction May \$1,880,000)

FY 25-26 PLP Allocation CLSA Funds  
**\$367,535**  
(CLSA 50% Reduction \$1,880,000)

Advocacy on this issue is happening, but more is needed.

7

## Federal Funds - LSTA

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funds to State Libraries through Grants to States, which translates to Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds.

About \$220M allocated to state libraries

Before this federal administration, California would receive the largest amount ~\$16M

California State Library use of LSTA funds (in general):

- Staffing
- Braille and Talking Book Library
- Statewide Grants
- Local Grants

PLP has administered about \$2M of those funds in collaboration with the State Library

8

## PLP and LSTA Funds

For years, PLP has administered statewide LSTA grants in partnership with the California State Library

### *FIVE-YEAR LSTA GRANTS*

#### **LITERACY INITIATIVES**

Provides resources and training for staff, volunteers, and adult learners in California Library Literacy Services (CLLS).

#### **NETWORKING CALIFORNIA LIBRARY RESOURCES**

A wide variety of activities to improve access to information, services, and opportunities for library workers and library users statewide.

#### **COMMUNITY-CENTERED LIBRARIES**

Provides library workers access to information about their communities and training on how to use that information to better understand the challenges, strengths, and aspirations of their users.

#### **Annual Estimated Revenue from administering LSTA grants:**

\$80K Staff Time  
\$84K Indirect  
\$164K

9

## LSTA Funds Timeline

**March 14:** Executive Order to eliminate IMLS. 21 states file lawsuit; ALA lawsuit

**April** State notified current grants discontinued, funds withheld for current reimbursements, no funds next year

**May:** President releases proposed budget, no IMLS funding

**May 6:** Injunction, violated the Administrative Procedure Act

**May 5:** IMLS notified State, funds released this year, invitation for funding next year at 50% level

**May 6:** State Librarian sends message to California Libraries that priorities will be State Library staff and Braille and Talking Book Library, with funding to other initiatives not yet established

State notified PLP on April 25 there would be no LSTA partnership for FY 2025-26

10

### Save Federal Grants to California Libraries

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) investment in California  
Federal funding for libraries is guaranteed each year by Congress and authorized under law.  
In 2023-2024, California received \$15.8 million in LSTA funding, or 40 cents per Californian. Federal funds are used to support veterans, for group purchasing of materials, and to improve literacy for job seekers. LSTA funding fills gaps in library budgets and frees local funding to meet local needs.



To view the data sources referenced in this infographic, please visit <https://www.storilo.org/info-funding/>. The infographic was created in March 2023.

## Advocacy

PLP advocates on behalf of its member libraries for access to funding, resources, and visibility. This looks like:

- ✓ Coordinating and participating in “Day in the District” activities in all four PLP regions
- ✓ Creating information sheets, talking points, and other advocacy collateral for library workers to use or distribute
- ✓ Communicating with CLA and the State Library to share priorities and concerns member libraries have expressed
- ✓ Promoting calls to action when library resources or services are endangered

11

## What you can do



Send a personal message to both California and Federal representatives

Work with Boards and Commissions to send letters

Ask 5 friends to send emails

Support CLA and ALA, and others like EveryLibrary, California Public Library Advocates

12



## Pacific Library Partnership

### PLP Activities for FY 2024-25 to Support Strategic Priorities

#### Strategic Priority 1. Staff Training and Professional Development

**Activity 1a.** Offer leadership training that supports library middle managers through the commencement of the PLP Greater Opportunities in Leadership Development (PLP GOLD) program. The program will center equity as a foundational principle and explore new processes to ensure staff from more distant or lesser-resourced libraries have opportunities to participate.

**Luis Herrera facilitated the new middle management leadership program. Thirteen participants engaged in 9 meetings. Incorporated into the budget were funds to support speakers, as well as lodging for participants traveling further distances.**

**Activity 1b.** The Staff Development Committee will organize programming that could be offered virtually or in-person for the Future of Libraries Conference and other workshops and events. Training will address staff needs and interests and work towards making programs accessible to the greatest number of members feasible.

**The Staff Development Committee hosted a successful, in-person, Future of Libraries conference in October 2024 with nearly 200 attendees. Speakers discussed intellectual freedom, the future of the MLIS degree, serving multilingual communities, and sustainability programs and projects. Due to high interest, the Committee hosted an additional workshop discussing serving multilingual communities with 78 attendees.**

**Activity 1c.** Calls will be put forth twice in FY 2024-25 for financial support of regional staff development training. Under-resourced libraries will be encouraged to apply, and all libraries are encouraged to work collaboratively with other jurisdictions.

**The new funding model allowed for individual grants of \$1,500 and \$2,500. Libraries were encouraged to apply for cooperative grants with one or more libraries to apply for a \$4,000 grant. One group applied for a cooperative grant to host a verbal judo training, and three libraries applied for \$2,500 grants for trainings related to emotional intelligence, the importance of play, and how to help undocumented community members. In addition to these, four MOBAC committees applied for lower amounts of funding to support their work. In total, \$14,250 was requested. Some projects are underspent or were not able to be executed, so the total amount is expected to be lower by the end of the fiscal year.**

**Activity 1d.** Provide workshops focused on skill building. Potential topics are recruitment and retention of diverse library staff, navigating political power, and restorative justice.

**In April 2025, a workshop “Serving Multilingual Communities” was held covering collection development, programming, and crafting public facing communications and outreach, as well as frontline staff who work at public desks. 190 people registered, 78 attended.**

## Strategic Priority 2. Support Innovation, Technology and Access

**Activity 2a-1.** In FY 2024-25 the Innovation and Technology Grants will continue to be offered. Grants focused on innovations related to sustainability, climate change, and emergency preparedness will be encouraged during the FY 2024-25 grant cycle in response to Council interest.

**10 projects were funded for a total of \$92,353 out of the \$110,000 budgeted. Projects were diverse ranging from wireless charging, sustainability, reducing plastic pollution, sensory-friendly study pods, AI and virtual reality programming, and placemaking.**

**Activity 2a-2.** A selection of grantees will be invited to speak at the PLP Annual meeting in May to discuss their Innovation and Technology grants and the impacts created by the projects.

**Representatives from Burlingame Public Library, Hayward Public Library, and Pleasanton Public Library will discuss their respective projects at the PLP Annual meeting on May 16, 2025.**

**Activity 2b-1.** Explore additional AI training or resources for PLP member libraries to further the understanding of this technology in relation to libraries and the needs of the communities they serve.

**PLP obtained a \$5,000 LSTA-funded grant from CALL and used about \$4,000 of PLP funds to supplement three in-person AI trainings in South San Francisco, Fremont, and Watsonville in March 2025. 112 PLP staff registered, with 99 attendees. A follow-up virtual training was held in April. Quotes include:**

***"I needed a training from a credible source on this topic and it addressed all of my questions while giving me practical experience." "Hands on experiences plus open discussion and getting in touch with world events regarding AI is important." "It was good to get a refresher on the basic concepts of AI. I enjoyed this class because it was library-specific and so closely applicable to my work. I've read a lot about the ethical implications of AI, but it was good to have a room where we could discuss them."***

**Activity 2b-2.** Explore the potential of a systemwide digital marketing campaign for commonly held eResources.

**There was limited staff capacity for this activity.**



## **Strategic Priority 3. Seek Grants and Collaborative Opportunities Reflecting Regional Needs of PLP Libraries**

**Activity 3a.** PLP will explore new grant opportunities and collaborative initiatives.

**PLP obtained a \$5,000 LSTA-funded grant from CALL for AI training.**

**PLP, in partnership with the California State Library, applied for an IMLS Laura Bush grant, LabForward: AI-Powered Library Innovation. With the changes in IMLS funding, no notification of the grant application status has been received.**

**Activity 3b-1.** PLP will be the fiscal and administrative agent for the following grants:

- **Statewide LSTA grants**
  - Literacy Initiatives
  - Networking California Library Services
  - Community-Centered Libraries (previously Equity Based Data-Driven Decision Making for Community Impact)

**Two State-funded statewide grants which PLP was administering ended in FY 2025-26: Statewide online Tutoring Program Partner Project and CAREER Pathways Project.**

**The three LSTA grants noted above were administered in FY 2024-25. For FY 2025-26, the State Library has notified PLP that there has been no offer of funding to California for IMLS funding, and all agencies should expect no funding for LSTA grants.**

**Activity 3b-2.** With the new California Library Services Act reporting, PLP will create an Ad Hoc Committee to develop metrics and evaluative tools to demonstrate the impact of PLP's use of CLSA funds on the communities we serve.

**This was completed. With the forms PLP created, PLP was able to use quotes from libraries for advocacy to restore CLSA funding.**

## **Strategic Priority 4. Support and Strengthen Individual Libraries Through Connections and Collections**

**Activity 4a.** Continue to support the PLP Shared Cataloging/Acquisition of International Language Materials project and assist in the expansion of the project to include more libraries. An emphasis will be placed on locating contributors who can assist with languages that are currently under or unrepresented by the project.

***Ryan Baker, director of Los Gatos Library, agreed to be liaison for the PLP Shared Cataloging/Acquisition of International Language Materials Project. An assessment was completed, and a recommendation has been developed.***

**Activity 4b-1.** Assist in the establishment of additional communities of interest.

**In response to a member suggestion, a new community of interest related to Homebound Services has been created.**

**Activity 4b-2.** Explore new opportunities for regional communications and networking.

**There was limited staff capacity for this activity.**

**Activity 4c.** As needed, encourage and support collaborative working groups to address specific region-wide challenges. Ideas include work groups for restorative justice, workplace safety, grants for rebuilding and renovating libraries, emergency response, and sustainability. Working groups will be recruited to ensure a diversity of voices, life experiences, and identities are represented. The intended outcomes of group activities will be guided by principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**There was limited staff capacity for this activity.**

## **Strategic Priority 5. Strive to Bring Value to PLP Member Libraries**

**Activity 5a.** In the spirit of equitable use of CLSA funds, we continue offering Flipster as a magazine eCollection for the smallest libraries.

**A Flipster subscription was renewed for FY2024-25 for the eight participating libraries with one additional title (23 in total).**

**Unfortunately, due to the ongoing 50% CLSA cuts, the libraries chose not to renew the subscription for FY 2025-26.**

**Activity 5b.** Conduct surveys as needed to gauge value members derive from PLP services and inform activities, programs, and future planning.

**Due to the ongoing 50% CLSA cuts, a survey was sent to member libraries to determine whether some of their CLSA funds could be redirected to assist PLP members with budgets less than \$10M. Five libraries chose to redirect their allocation. Half of these funds were used to increase the distribution to the smaller libraries and half of these funds were held back to be used for future purchases or redistribution in FY 2025-26.**

**CEO Note:** Due to the uncertainty of state and federal funds, much of our time was spent in advocacy. We anticipate this continuing into FY2025-26.

**To:** PLP Administrative Council  
**From:** Ryan Baker  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to the PLP World Languages Project  
**Date:** May 16, 2025

The SVLS Executive Board thanks and appreciates the work of the SVLS Technical Services Workgroup for spearheading the initial working model of the World Languages Project to address the needs of our multilingual communities in Silicon Valley. Moving forward, the project is recommended to be transferred to a working group under the umbrella of the Pacific Library Partnership with the goal of expanding the project scope to a larger number of library systems and incorporating collection development tools alongside the cataloging tools already developed by the SVLS Technical Services Workgroup. Members of the Technical Services Workgroup are welcome to volunteer in the new PLP-led project as it transitions forward either in project administrative project-support capacity or a language specialist capacity.

### **PLP draft workplan for support of collections in languages other than English**

#### *Terminology:*

LOTE(s) = Languages other than English. This abbreviation encompasses both the idea of dominant “world languages”, as well as heritage languages, and marginalized or endangered languages, while specifically excluding English as a dominant default.

Language Specialists = Library staff with fluency and or functional experience in a language other than English.

#### *Guiding principle / Project overview: SVLS*

LOTEs collections are a necessity for public libraries to meet the dynamic needs of California communities as it pertains to equity of access to reading materials for multilingual communities. In addition to providing access to primary language materials, these collections promote and support bilingual language acquisition, reinforce the strength of heritage languages, and provide a global connection to authors, ideas, and voices for our diverse library users.

It is recognized that many California libraries, especially smaller and mid-sized jurisdictions, have either limited or no in-house Language Specialists that can support the LOTE material needs of their changing communities. This project hopes to leverage language expertise across library jurisdictions for shared workload, inter-library collaboration, and cooperative support for the benefit of California’s multi-lingual communities.

We also recognize that there is a significant gap between the needs of a larger library system with an established experience of providing LOTE materials to a historically linguistically diverse community, and the challenges facing communities that are working to accommodate newly changing community linguistic demographics. With the principle of equity across all California communities, this project will seek to tackle in the first phase an achievable basic level of access to LOTE materials to communities that are deficient in their LOTE offerings, rather than attempting to address higher service level issues facing large established collections.

### *Background:*

In 2016, the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) member libraries identified the desire to coordinate LOTE materials acquisition and cataloging for member libraries. Surveys were conducted by an ad hoc committee to address the need and willingness to participate. In 2018, the Silicon Valley Library System's (SVLS) Technical Services Workgroup took over the initial implementation of the project, with work focusing primarily on the cataloging and technical aspects of the project. In 2025, the project will be positioned under the umbrella of PLP with the goal of expanding the project at a State-wide level to create a base-level of contribution and support for California's multilingual communities.

### *Workplan:*

Phase one goal (Beginning January 2025) – Establish a base level of equity and access for community LOTE needs supporting libraries with the least amount of in-house LOTE language specialty ability; defined as being able to provide a curated core collection in the target language with annual additions of new and popular materials aimed at providing the tools to support tripling a collecting size over a three-year period.

1. Advertising of project through PLP to member libraries.
2. Recruit three volunteers for project administration.
3. Develop framework template for cumulative field searchable records list. Establish capacity of record keeping.
4. Establish shared document platform and migrate applicable existing documents to new platform.
5. Identify cadres of support for original language troubleshooting in ILS system displays.
6. Create standard record input overlay for data files.
7. Recruit volunteer Language Specialists in the following *initial* target languages for both collection development and cataloging:
  - a. Spanish
  - b. Mandarin
  - c. Cantonese
  - d. Vietnamese
  - e. Japanese
  - f. Korean
  - g. Hindi
  - h. Punjabi
  - i. Tamil
  - j. French
  - k. German
  - l. Arabic
  - m. Russian

- n. Farsi/Persian
  - o. Ukrainian
  - p. Portuguese
  - q. Tagalog
8. Language Specialists will be working in teams by language group, not by library. This will allow for collection development and record quality cross check, while easing the burden on a single library to fulfill workload in a LOTES area. We will be looking for contributors that are already producing the work for their respective libraries in these areas without the need to take on a significant additional workload. An optimum team should consist of two Language Specialists for acquisition/collection development and one for cataloging for one collection area within the language (e.g. Korean Juv Fiction, Mandarin Adult Fiction, Hindi Picture Books, etc).
  9. Desired outputs:
    - a. Core collection list (starter collection list) of approx. 300 titles for each LOTE collection area (Picture Books, Juvenile, Adult Fiction, and Adult Non-Fiction). These titles will comprise the curated “essentials”.
    - b. Semi-annual curated collection maintenance lists of approx.150 titles in each LOTE collection area. These titles will comprise the newest releases and untranslated bestsellers, as well as other popular or in-demand titles.
    - c. Included with these lists will be vendor/supplier options, basic MARC records (short records for basic circulation needs), full MARC records, label processing templates (excel extract), and vetted original language marketing/signage.
      - i. Basic MARC records consist of:
        1. ISBN
        2. OCLC#
        3. Author
        4. Title (original language)
        5. Title (Romanized)
        6. Title (English translation)
        7. Summary in English (520)
        8. Subject headings in English
        9. Call Number (suggested)
        10. Price (retail)
  10. Ascertain additional Language Specialists for other LOTES, as well as other community language needs not listed above.
  11. Identify any redundancies as the project overlaps with any current vendor services and develop additional value that augments the project.
  12. Identify librarians that attend LOTES publisher conventions or purchasing events.

13. Determine if joint (interagency) purchasing for LOTE materials would provide significant discounts with specialty language vendors.
14. Introduce project to expanded at consortium levels outside of PLP.

*Project reevaluation in July of 2026*

Possible future considerations for expansion to Phase 2 if program is reported as successful:

- Determine interest of project at CLA/State level.
- Determine needs for program expansion to share or reduce workload for larger library systems with pre-established in-house Language Specialists' expertise in both selection and cataloging.
- Determine if key libraries would host LOTE cataloging interns.
- Determine opportunities for cross collaboration with tribal groups to promote limited publication and endangered California languages collections.
- Determine if it is possible to establish a letter of agreement and protocols for use and security for interagency Z39.50 access for expanded cataloging capabilities.

## PLP Activities for FY 2025-26 to Support Strategic Priorities

### Strategic Priority 1. Staff Training and Professional Development

**Activity 1a.** Offer leadership training that supports library middle managers through the continuation of the PLP Greater Opportunities in Leadership Development (PLP GOLD) program, assuming funding is available. The program will center equity as a foundational principle.

**Activity 1b.** The Staff Development Committee will organize programming that could be offered virtually or in-person for the Future of Libraries Conference and other workshops and events. Training will address staff needs and interests and work towards making programs accessible to the greatest number of members feasible.

**Activity 1c.** Provide additional workshops focused on skill building or other high-demand topics identified by PLP members, as funding allows.

### Strategic Priority 2. Support Innovation, Technology and Access

**Activity 2a.** In FY 2025-26 the Innovation and Technology Grants may be temporarily paused or greatly reduced in response to the expected loss of LSTA grant funding in FY 2025-26.

**Activity 2b.** Explore additional technology training or resources for PLP member libraries to further the understanding of new and developing technologies in relation to libraries and the needs of the communities they serve.

### Strategic Priority 3. Seeking Grants and Collaborative Opportunities Reflecting Regional Needs of PLP Libraries

**Activity 3a.** PLP will explore new grant opportunities and collaborative initiatives.

**Activity 3b.** Due to the expected elimination of LSTA funding, PLP will not participate in statewide capacity programs with the California State Library in FY 2025-26. If IMLS funding becomes available, PLP will work closely with the State Library to reactivate the capacity programs or other statewide initiatives.

PLP, in partnership with the California State Library, applied for a 3-year IMLS Laura Bush grant regarding AI, which would have commenced in FY 2025-25. The status of that grant is unknown at this time.

PLP can continue to explore additional grant opportunities or partnerships as they develop.

## **Strategic Priority 4. Support and Strengthen Individual Libraries Through Connections and Collections**

**Activity 4a.** Continue to support and assist in the expansion of the Languages Other Than English (LOTEs) project. An emphasis will be placed on establishing a base level of equity and access for community LOTEs needs supporting libraries with the least amount of in-house LOTEs language specialty ability.

**Activity 4b.** Assist in the establishment of additional communities of interest and explore new opportunities for regional communications and networking.

**Activity 4c.** As needed, encourage and support collaborative working groups to address specific region-wide challenges. Working groups will be recruited to ensure a diversity of voices, life experiences, and identities are represented. The intended outcomes of group activities will be guided by principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **Strategic Priority 5. Strive to Bring Value to PLP Member Libraries**

**Activity 5a.** Provide local, statewide, and federal level advocacy for PLP regional libraries. Particular focus will be given towards the restoration of CLSA and IMLS funding. Awareness will be maintained to identify other critical issues where PLP can assist in amplifying the voices of member libraries.

**Activity 5b.** Conduct surveys as needed to gauge value members derive from PLP services and inform activities, programs, and future planning.