LSTA INFORMATION SESSION 2025-2026

JANUARY 14, 2025

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CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

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Full Information on Our Website

- For more information, please visit our website:
  https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/

- With any questions, please contact us:
  LSTAgrants@library.ca.gov

Support for Applicants

The State Library team is here to help! [Request a meeting](#) between now and February 26 to discuss your proposal with members of our team.

For those with questions about designing equitable grant programs, we may ask a trained Equity Advisor to join the meeting.

Grants Management System

For these opportunities, applicants will use our online Grants Management System, AmpliFund.

AmpliFund

Please use your organization's existing AmpliFund account. The director or head of your organization holds the account for your organization. Do not start a new account unless you are certain that this is your organization's first experience with AmpliFund!

Purpose, Co-Design, and Equity

- Programs must support the LSTA Five-Year Plan

- Programs must be Equity-Centered

- The co-design process: Programs and services are designed together with community members, instead of making decisions for community members.

- Equity-based community-involvement: how the project has been designed and will be implemented in collaboration with the focus population(s) that your project(s) targets.

Training Opportunities on CALL

Live trainings on California Libraries Learn ([CALL](#)) - [CALL account](#)

- [Building community: strategies for coming together](#) - Jan 15
- [Community co-design: how to collaborate with your community](#) – Feb. 18, 25, and Mar. 4, 2025 (~15 hour commitment)

On-demand / recorded trainings on CALL and WebJunction

- [Beyond the survey: harnessing the power of data to equitably serve your community](#) (part of Community Centered Libraries)
- [Building authentic relationships with underserved communities](#)
- [Co-creating library services for transformative impact](#)
- [Cultivating the relationship-driven library](#)
- [Skills for community-centered libraries](#)

New Uniform Guidance Updates

The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has revised the OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements. These updates are intended to address statutory requirements and administration priorities, reduce agency and recipient burden, and rewrite certain sections with plain language, improved flow, and consistency in terminology.

The LSTA Application Guide reflects the changes relating to application content and the application process. Successful applicants will receive an application agreement that reflects applicable updates.

New Uniform Guidance Updates Key Changes

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Some key changes in areas that directly impact awardees. Please note we are not able to provide legal guidance or interpretation pertaining to these regulatory updates. If you have questions, please reach out via email: LSTAGrants@library.ca.gov

- **Cybersecurity** must be incorporated into internal control policies and procedures
- Priority to purchase **products and services that can be reused, refurbished, or recycled, are biobased, are energy and water efficient**
- Informing employees of recipients and subrecipients of **whistleblower rights** and protections in writing
- **New certification statement** for subrecipients that must be submitted when applying for funds, requesting payment, submitting financial reports
- **Increased equipment threshold** value from $5,000 to $10,000
- Modified Total Direct Cost **(MTDC) ceiling raised** from $25,000 to $50,000
- **De minimis indirect cost rate increased** from 10% to 15%
- The State Library is required to **confirm that potential subrecipients aren't suspended, debarred, or excluded from receiving Federal funding**

New LSTA Application Guide

Now web-based.

Content updated to reflect recent Unform Guidance changes, the State Library's new grants management system, and the current application process.

Refer to the [LSTA Application Guide](#) for detailed information and application guidance, including:

- Eligibility requirements
- Support and payment
- Review and scoring
- Application questions and application components
- Unallowable and allowable costs
- Outcome surveys
- Project description & brief abstract writing examples
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance

General LSTA Eligibility

Projects must:
- Contribute to the achievement of the State Library's current LSTA five-year plan.
- Adhere to federal restrictions on LSTA funding
- Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Public libraries applying for funds must have completed:
- The most recent Public Libraries Survey
- The Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Survey

For detailed opportunity eligibility requirements, review the opportunity webpages and LSTA Application Guide

Application Process

- Applications open: January 8, 2025
- Grant opportunities close: March 12, 2025, at 12:00 noon
- Grant period begins: July 1, 2025
- Grant period ends: June 30, 2026

Awards will be made after IMLS funding levels are confirmed for California and the State budget has passed.

Successful applicants can expect to receive project funds up to 8 to 10 weeks after the payment claim form is received by the State Library.

Applications will be completed and submitted online using the California State Library's new online grant management system, AmpliFund.

Application Review Scoring

- Detailed review criteria are available to applicants in the application instructions.
- Reviewers will use the following scale to rate how well individual questions in the proposal are answered:
  - Yes, fully (3 points)
  - Yes, adequately (2 points)
  - Yes, but insufficiently (1 point)
  - No (0 points)

  Points assigned by reviewers are one part of a holistic grant review and are not the sole factor determining reviewers' decisions. Scores will also be used to inform the support provided to agencies that submit successful applications.

Application Review
Other Considerations

To help ensure California communities have the library services and programs they need to thrive, the State Library's Five Year Plan for Grantmaking centers on equity. If we receive more strong applications than we can support, we will prioritize funding projects that:

o Deliver innovative programs and services directly to Californians.

o Support libraries and communities that have not received LSTA grants in the last five years.

o Support communities with higher poverty rates as measured by the California Poverty Measure (CPM).

o Support libraries with a low Local Income Per Capita (LIPC).

Support for Grantees

- The State Library will provide a support team for successful applicants, including:
    - **Grant Monitor:** support program compliance and reporting.
    - **Library Programs Consultant:** support project development.
    - **Equity Advisor:** support the design and delivery of equitable programs and services through the lifecycle of successful projects.

Community Impact Grants

Community Impact Grants:

- o Contribute to the achievement of Goal One in the California State Library's Five-Year State Plan for LSTA 2023-2027: *Strengthen the ability of California libraries to design equitable programs and services in collaboration with their local communities.*
- o Include library programming activities or support the development of new library services.
- o Two types of projects: local and collaborative projects.
  - ᵡ Local projects funding request range: $10,000-$100,000
  - ᵡ Collaborative projects funding request range: $50,000-$250,000

Themed Opportunities

- [Play for All](#)
- [Sustainable California Libraries](#)
- [Teens Succeed](#)
- [eBooks for All](#)

These projects support Goal 4: Strengthen equitable resource-sharing and access to information, services, and opportunity with an emphasis on local community strengths and challenges.

Play for All Overview

Play is essential to a young child's development.

The Play for All funding opportunity provides grants to help California libraries design and create welcoming family play spaces and offer meaningful programming around play for young children ages zero to eight.

The purpose of these grants is to support libraries in addressing the barriers and inequitable access to quality play spaces and play-based programming young children may encounter in communities that are experiencing marginalization, are under-resourced, and are underserved.

Photo credit: Kern County Library

Play for All
Project Details

California libraries can apply for grant funding to support:

- Staff time to co-design, coordinate, and implement programs
- Purchases of mobile and/or child-friendly furnishings, manipulatives, and materials to create play spaces for ages 0 to 8
- Services from community organizations
- Participation in professional development workshops
- Outreach and promotion of play resources and programs
- Any additional allowable expenditures that help libraries provide young children access to play

Programs and play spaces funded by this grant must be open to the public.

Play for All
Project Details, cont.

The State Library welcomes applications from libraries that offer play programs onsite and/or at locations other than library sites. Options to provide this service at locations other than the library include:

- Outreach visits
- Creating opportunities for the focus population to come to the library where the play space and/or programs are
- Long-term checkout period of play programming materials

Evaluation
Successful applicants will be required to survey participants to measure the impact of their programs. Questions will be provided.

Photo credit: Sonoma County Library

Play for All
Commitment and Funding

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Project staff funded through this opportunity make a commitment to:

- Connect and engage with communities that are experiencing marginalization, are under-resourced, and are underserved
- Participate in virtual Community of Practice meetings
- Attend professional development trainings
- Participate in recorded, virtual Ignite Talks in June 2026

This opportunity is open to:

- California public libraries and nonprofit organizations supporting these libraries, such as Friends groups and library cooperative systems
- California academic libraries and nonprofit organizations supporting these libraries, such as Friends groups

- Minimum funding request: **$10,000**
- Maximum funding request: **$75,000**

Sustainable California Libraries Overview

[Sustainable California Libraries](#) grants fund climate and sustainability programming for adults and intergenerational groups.

[Most Californians say climate change is a threat to the economy and quality of life for California's future](#).* Libraries are community hubs that respond to local concerns and interests, from reducing food waste, to community disaster preparedness, to supporting biodiversity.

Image credit: South Pasadena Public Library

*Public Policy Institute of CA Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment, July 2024

Sustainable California Libraries Project Details Part 1

Projects *may* include:

- Climate education programs, including climate change as a public health issue
- Citizen science and conservation programs
- Environment-focused civic engagement programs
- Programs and services that support local climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation

Projects *must* include public programming, outreach, and at least one project partner or community connection in place by the time of application.

Resources page

Sustainable California Libraries Project Details Part 2

Successful past projects have included grant funding to support:

- Staff time to co-design, coordinate, and implement projects.
- Supplies to support programs.
- Services from community organizations.
- Outreach, promotion and community engagement specific to the project.
- Evaluation of project activities and outcomes.
- Scholarships for community members participating in educational and workforce development activities as part of the project.
- Internships for time spent directly on project related activities.
- Participation in professional development specific to the project.
- Staff time and travel costs to attend an in-state conference to share.

See more at: https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/sustainability/

Sustainable California Libraries
Commitment, Funding, Peer Review

Project staff funded through this opportunity commit to:

- Community of Practice virtual sessions (estimated 5-6 sessions).
- Recorded Ignite Talks (virtual) in June 2026 to share promising practices and stories with the library community.

This opportunity is open to California public libraries and nonprofit organizations supporting libraries, such as Friends groups, and library cooperative systems

- Minimum funding request: **$10,000**
- Maximum funding request: **$75,000**

Applications for this opportunity will be reviewed by a panel of Peer Reviewers that includes library staff from across the state.

Teens Succeed Purpose

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This opportunity provides grant funding for teen internships in an out-of-school time environment and related costs.

The purpose of this grant is to address the challenges teens face in the aftereffects of the pandemic and to help prepare youth for success in life.

Applications should demonstrate an understanding of community needs, aspirations, and assets. Public programming, outreach, and at least one project partner or community connection is required.

Teens Succeed Allowable Costs

Libraries can apply for grant funding to conduct the following types of activities:

- Salaries for library staff to manage, mentor and develop the teen interns and internships.
- Wages for the teen interns.
- Supplies needed to carry out programming.
- Outreach and promotion of project programs.
- Social emotional learning curriculum.
- Other project activities that are integral and necessary for the completion of project goals.

Teens Succeed
Supports and Outcomes

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Project staff funded through this opportunity make a commitment to:

- Connect and engage with communities that are experiencing marginalization, are under-resourced, and are underserved
- Participate in virtual Community of Practice meetings
- Attend professional development trainings
- Participate in recorded, virtual Ignite Talks in June 2026

Minimum funding request: **$50,000**
Maximum funding request: **$100,000**

eBooks for All
Overview

eBooks for All is a statewide initiative to help local libraries meet the informational and recreational reading needs of their community. It unites all participating California libraries in a shared ecosystem of eBooks. This, in effect, allows for libraries to all borrow, seamlessly, from a shared "Statewide" collection.

The project uses the Palace reader and marketplace. Palace is an eBook aggregator that can retrieve books from multiple sources and present those materials to the user in a singular place.

eBooks for All Purpose

The eBooks for All collection development grant opportunity allows local libraries to help build the statewide collection of eBooks.

- Allows local libraries a direct voice in what the statewide collection looks like
- Expands the statewide collection in a meaningful way
- Tailors the statewide collection to meet local needs.

eBooks for All Requirements

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Projects funded through this opportunity must:

- Come from a library that participates in the Palace Project
- Purchase materials inside of the Palace Marketplace and share those materials statewide.
- Make collection decisions in alignment with a local collection development policy.
- Apply 25 percent in contributing funds to project materials
- Afford for staff to participate in a community of practice.

Thank You and Questions

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Thank you for joining us today!

Questions?

- **[Request a meeting](#) to discuss your proposal with members of our team.** For those with questions about designing equitable grant programs, we may ask a trained Equity Advisor to join the meeting.

- Email LSTAgrants@library.ca.gov