



State Funding Available to Address Infrastructure Needs at California Public Libraries

For Immediate Release: February 8, 2022

Contact: Alex Vassar

(916) 603-7177

press@library.ca.gov

[Sacramento, Calif.] T The State Library announced today that it's now accepting applications from local libraries for more than \$400 million in funding to address critical maintenance needs as well as public safety improvements at California's 1,130 local libraries.

"This funding by Gov. Newsom and the Legislature is the largest single investment California has ever made in its community libraries," said Greg Lucas, California's state librarian. "This funding begins to address long-standing maintenance and facility needs that must be made to help deliver the 21st Century services Californians expect – and need – from their libraries."

There is \$439 million in one-time funds in the Building Forward Library Infrastructure program to assist public libraries in economically challenged areas around the state.

The 2021-2022 budget sets these priorities for use of the funds:

1. Projects addressing life safety and other critical maintenance needs; and
2. Projects serving high poverty areas of the state.

Other library infrastructure projects may be considered if funding remains after priority projects have been evaluated. Grantees must provide matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Cities, counties, and library districts are eligible to apply. The application process begins February 9, 2022. Any questions must be submitted to <mailto:BuildingForward@library.ca.gov> by 5 p.m., March 14, 2022. The first round of applications closes on March 21, 2022.

Awards are expected to be announced in Spring 2022. Those who do not receive grants during the first round will be automatically considered in the next round of applications. The maximum grant a library can receive is \$10 million. Funds must be used by March 31, 2026.

For more information about the program and how to apply visit the State Library's website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/infrastructure>

END RELEASE TEXT

About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. Around the state, the State Library also serves California's local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and delivering statewide library programs and services. [State Library website](http://www.library.ca.gov)