



## State Library Funds Creative, Green Mobile Library Solutions

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**[Sacramento, Calif.]** – The California State Library has awarded grants to 15 local libraries to acquire or upgrade their bookmobiles or community outreach vehicles.

Members of many California communities depend on library services but have insufficient transportation, live too far away, or are unable to visit their library during normal hours. These Bringing-the-Library-to-You™ grants help libraries meet the needs of those community members.

“Libraries demonstrate their value more outside the walls of the library and the creative, green, mobile solutions the State Library is helping make happen are great example,” said California State Librarian Greg Lucas. “It’s a shame available funds aren’t enough to cover all the good ideas being put forward.”

“Bringing-the-Library-to-You” offers grants to local libraries to improve library access and program delivery. Green solutions are prioritized under the program. Nine of the 15 projects receiving grant funds are for electric vehicles. Plumas County is receiving a grant for a bookmobile to serve Greenville and the surrounding communities. Greenville’s library was destroyed in 2021’s Dixie Fire.

An additional \$300,000 in grants is earmarked to help libraries implement systems that use library cards as keycards to allow people to enter libraries and pick up books or use computer terminals and printers during times when no staff is present. Five libraries around the state including Tehama County Library, Corona Public Library, and Penn Valley Library Station are already using these systems thanks to a previous round of Bringing-the-Library-to-You grants.

The awarded grants include:

- **Santa Barbara Public Library (\$250,000 for an electric cargo van)** - The Library on the Go project will be expanded to support additional outreach opportunities for youth and families, including Stay and Play at off-site locations, school age programming at schools and after-school program sites, and family STEAM activities in public parks. An additional, smaller, all-electric Library on the Go outreach van to SBPL’s outreach services will enable staff to deliver a wide range of library services to users who cannot come to the library or who are still hesitant about extended periods indoors due to the lingering public health crisis. This second vehicle dedicated to delivering youth and family outreach will increase efficiencies, ensuring that SBPL can maximize existing resources to meet the needs of the community.
- **Tulare County Library (\$250,000 for book lockers)** - The "Check It Out - Tulare County Library" plan is to improve rural access to library books, catalog, databases, services, programs, and other library resources. The book lockers, which will be purchased and installed by September of 2022, will provide access to books, holds, and the library catalog and databases. There is also a possibility to implement Wi-Fi access at the sites.
- **Ventura County Library (\$250,000 for a bookmobile)** - The School Mobile Library addresses the need to provide library services to schools in Ventura County, especially underserved schools that cannot operate their own libraries, so that all students may have equitable access to information and educational resources. Project activities of the School Mobile Library include VCL purchasing and outfitting a fuel-efficient bookmobile to be used as a new mobile branch library specifically dedicated to school outreach.
- **Yolo County Library (\$250,000 for a bookmobile)** - The Yolo County Library will purchase and equip a customized van-size bookmobile to deliver library services in remote areas not currently served by physical branches, with an emphasis on rural, low-income, and migrant farmworker communities.

Customers will have access to print materials, hotspots, Chromebooks, and Wi-Fi as well as programming that supports reading, technology literacy, and lifelong learning.

- **Riverside County Library (\$201,976 for two mobile literacy resource vans)** - The two mobile literacy resource vans, "Library Connect", will bring library and literacy programs and services (including workforce development support services, educational enrichment support services as well as Wi-Fi, computers, and printers) to hard-to-reach, remote and rural communities in Riverside County. Library Connect programs and services will provide increased access to learning opportunities and learning materials and increased exposure to literacy and STEAM concepts for all ages that will build essential workforce skills (including 21st Century soft skills) and an overall sense of lifelong learning.
- **County of Plumas (\$200,000 for a bookmobile)** - The bookmobile will first serve as a replacement for the Greenville Branch Library that burned down in the Dixie Fire. Later, the bookmobile will be repurposed to help other community members who are unable to access permanent branches due to the usual rural barriers.
- **Lake County Library (\$199,865 for a bookmobile)** - This funding will provide mobile library services for Lake County residents more than 20 miles from an established branch; providing them with library materials for their educational, informational, and recreational use, provide a connection to the internet, and promote literacy and lifelong learning. In addition, we will enhance library outreach efforts with the presence of the mobile library vehicle at outreach events to further enhance the reach and awareness of the library within our community.
- **City of San Diego (\$178,000 for 1 electric van and 3 Electric cargo bikes)** - The outreach van and three cargo bikes will carry equipment and materials for outreach activities including registering patrons for library cards, demonstrating online resources, promoting library programs, conducting STEAM demonstrations, and doing story times and other literacy programs. While the van itself can travel throughout San Diego's traffic-filled streets and highways, staff cyclists on cargo bikes can carry outreach materials and technology throughout those parts of San Diego where cars are not often allowed, including parks, farmer's markets, school and senior center campuses, and community centers.
- **City of Pleasanton (\$175,000 for a bookmobile)** - The funding will take programming into the community, reaching diverse populations who cannot access services because of lack of transportation and access barriers, as well as reenergizing current users with new, innovative programming. The intent is to extend the Library and Recreation Department services across the City's 24-square mile radius, reaching underserved populations and offering greater accessibility than what the existing single library facility provides.
- **San Diego County Library (\$167,954 for an electric van)** - The San Diego City Library is transitioning from traditional, walk aboard bookmobiles with a set schedule of stops to on-demand, mobile outreach service providing tailored experiences with Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV), Ford Transit vans in support of San Diego County's Climate Action Plan. The goal of the project is to redesign our Bookmobile Services into targeted outreach services for the rural and unincorporated areas of the county while supporting the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) by using Zero Emission Vehicles. As a result of this project, the new "Service Beyond the Branch" concept will bring targeted early literacy and STEM programs to underserved or hard to reach communities, and awareness about the need to reduce carbon emission.
- **Covina Public Library (\$162,783 for a cargo van)** - "Rec and Read Covina!" is a partnership between the Covina Public Library and the Covina Parks and Recreation Department that will combine education, physical activity and fun to targeted underserved communities in the city of Covina. Through a combination of themed story times, arts and crafts, physical education, a circulating book collection, Wi-Fi access and literacy instruction, the goal of this innovative partnership is to take library and recreation services out of their buildings and into the Covina communities that face transportation and/or mobility challenges to build stronger communities.
- **Monterey Public Library (\$144,000 for a bookmobile)** - The Monterey Public Library will replace its aging 30' low-floor, extra-wide bookmobile with a 24' greener and easier to drive Sprinter Van to provide equitable, inclusive library services and continue delivering customized library service to low-income, isolated, and transportation challenged residents.
- **Woodland Public Library (\$121,000 for a bookmobile)** - This funding will purchase a 30' step van equipped with shelving and library program materials to promote reading and literacy throughout the community to bring library services to residents and areas of Woodland that are unable to access library

services. This mobile library will create a new avenue for access to library card registrations, story times, circulating collections, and other library services to expand the impact of the library in our community by visits to parks, apartment complexes, and schools.

- **Whittier Public Library (\$70,000 for an electric-powered box truck)** - The Whittier Public Library on the Go vehicle will allow for expansion of our services outside the walls of the library. A small, easily driven, and versatile electric vehicle with storage space and shelving on the exterior will provide a library experience almost anywhere--such as schools, parks, and community events, allowing patrons to access library services without visiting our buildings. The vehicle will provide library service at community events, parks, elementary schools, preschools, and any other locations where we can reach potential patrons.
- **Pacific Grove Public Library (\$55,825 for an electric outreach vehicle)** - This program will use an electric vehicle to provide programs, resources, and services to underserved youth, adults, seniors, and families. Community members will be able to browse and check out library materials, obtain a library card, and learn more about library resources and services.

# END RELEASE TEXT #

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of art, books, diaries, maps, newspapers, periodicals, photographs, and posters from throughout California's rich history. The State Library is also California state government's information hub and holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)