



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The California Library Association — through its members and advocates — works to make a difference for all Californians by providing adequately funded libraries, which transform lives through their programs and services.

At the state level, CLA actively advocates for the following:

1. Protection of 2021-22 and 2022-23 State Budget Augmentations in Light of a Challenging 2024-25 Budget year

During the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budget years, the legislature and the Governor made a series of historic funding commitments to public library programs under the jurisdiction of the California State Library. This funding allowed public libraries to address much needed health and safety construction-related deficiencies, fed children at the library in need of a meal during the summer, provided books to homebound seniors, and much more. As such, the California Library Association respectfully requests that the legislature and Governor protect the valuable investments made in the areas of:

- * The California Library Services Act (CLSA) that fosters resource sharing among libraries, particularly in rural areas where funding challenges persist.
- a. *Lunch at the Library, which provides 300,000+ free and nutritious lunches and literacy-rich programs annually at hundreds of libraries across the state during the summer months.
- b. * Zip books, a program which supports the diverse informational needs of people in rural and underserved populations who cannot get to a physical library.
- c. * Library infrastructure grants through the Building Forward Library Improvement Grant Program, which is providing critically important construction dollars to public libraries throughout the state for health and safety facility upgrades, ADA compliance, essential library building expansions and more.

2. New and Ongoing Funding Requests (2024-25 State Budget)

- a. \$3 million in one-time funding grants to assist public libraries in offsetting costs associated with the implementation of SB 321-Ashby, Statutes of 2023 (library cards for third graders).
- b. \$10 million in funding to support online job training and workforce development.
- c. \$5 million in ongoing funding for the training of library staff and hiring of social workers to support the de-escalation of behavioral trends in libraries.

3. Equitable Access to Critical Library and Information Services

- a. Broadband equity and digital literacy for unserved and underserved communities.
- b. Support the freedom to read and access to material with diverse points of view.
- c. Support libraries as a safe haven for all community members.
- d. Accessible buildings, including upgrades to critical infrastructure and support in times of disaster, such as wildfires and extreme heat.
- e. Early literacy, school readiness, adult literacy, career development, vocational support,

and assistance to vulnerable populations.

- f. Mandate credentialed Teacher Librarians in all California Public Schools and support the creation of a Library Lead position in the Statewide System of Support .
- g. Support for libraries to purchase digital content including eBooks and eAudiobooks at the same price as consumers.
- h. Support for California's law libraries.

CLA supports positive action in key areas, including, but not limited to

- **Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism**
- **Intellectual Freedom**
- **Privacy**
- **Net Neutrality**

CLA also monitors all state legislation that may impact items on the above list or that are identified as having an impact on libraries, library funding and/or library staff.