

# CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET: PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING IN JEOPARDY

## Important Dates:

**Thursday, May 3, 2012** – Senate Budget Subcommittee Number One On Education Finance (*Senators Carol Liu – Chair, Ted Gaines, and Roderick Wright*)

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012** – Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number Two on Education Finance (*Assemblymembers Susan Bonilla – Chair, Bill Berryhill, Julia Brownley, Brian Nestande, Sandre Swanson*)

## Issues:

The California State Budget eliminated all \$30.4 million of state-sponsored library funding. During the Budget process last year, \$15.2 million of that funding was temporarily saved through lobbying and grass roots efforts, but ultimately it was removed when the Governor and the Legislature implemented a so-called “trigger mechanism” when state revenues did not improve.

**The California Library Association has been actively working to restore \$15.2 million in the 2012-13 State Budget.** CLA seeks to protect three major programs – the California Library Services Act, the California Library Literacy Services program, and the Public Library Foundation. Additionally, approximately \$16 million in corresponding federal funds are currently at risk if the legislature does not provide the essential funding to bring California in compliance with the federal match and maintenance of effort requirements.

## Programs At Risk:

The **California Library Services Act** is a statewide, coordinated system of “regions” designed for the purpose of supporting the delivery of books/materials between branches in the network and to maximize the purchase of shared services such as high speed Internet, reference catalogues, etc. Reimbursement is provided to jurisdictions for interlibrary loans of materials and direct loans to non-resident borrowers. The CLSA is the program that is most fundamental to the success of the public library system in California. (Funding level needed - \$8.5 million)

The **California Library Literacy Services Program** is a statewide, coordinated program managed by the State Library. This program features one-on-one tutoring for English-speaking adults who read below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. Last year 20,000 adult learners received services, and another 5,000 adults are currently on the waiting list for services. This program enables participants to reach literacy benchmarks, but also assists the learners in compatible areas such as workforce development and financial literacy. (Funding level needed - \$3.7 million)

The **Public Library Foundation** was established as a way to help mitigate the negative effects of a series of property tax shifts away from public libraries. The money is utilized by public libraries for staffing, extending library hours, development and expansion of important programs such as Homework Help Centers for teens after school, and the purchase of needed books, materials, and bookmobiles. The funding for the PLF is distributed on a per capita basis to every library jurisdiction. (Funding level needed - \$3 million)

**\$16 Million in Federal Funding** is also at risk. Elimination of this funding would be a serious blow to the libraries of California. Particularly hard hit would be important programs such as the Braille and Talking Books Program, administered by the State Library.