



2023 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. New and Ongoing Funding Requests (2023-24 State Budget)

- a. \$100 million for library infrastructure grants through the Building Forward Library Improvement Grant Program to continue addressing the significant public library construction backlog.
- b. \$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.

2. Protection of 2021-22 and 2022-23 State Budget Augmentations in Light of a Looming Recession

- a. \$3.63 million in ongoing funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA) that fosters resource sharing among libraries, particularly in rural areas where funding challenges persist.
- b. \$5 million in ongoing funding for Lunch at the Library to provide literacy-rich programs to blunt the impact of the summer slide for children who receive 300,000+ free and nutritious lunches at hundreds of libraries across the state.
- c. \$10 million in funding to support online job training and workforce development.
- d. Increase ongoing funding to \$1 million to support the diverse informational needs of people in rural and underserved populations who cannot get to a physical library through the Zip Book program.
- e. \$439 million (2021-22 budget year) and an additional \$50 million (2022-23 budget year) for library infrastructure grants through the Building Forward Library Improvement Grant Program.

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.
- g. Support for libraries to purchase digital content including eBooks and eAudiobooks at the same price as consumers.

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

- **Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism**
- **Privacy**
- **Intellectual Freedom**
- **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.