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.