

Save Federal Funding to California Libraries

Library Investment in California

Federal funding for libraries is guaranteed each year by Congress and authorized under law. In 2023-2024, California received **\$15.9 million in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding** from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, or **40 cents per Californian**.

Federal funds support veterans, allow for group purchasing of materials, and improve literacy for job seekers. LSTA funding **fills gaps in library budgets and frees local funding** to meet local needs. Federal Communications Commission reimbursements - approximately \$10.8 million in 2023-2024 - **make broadband affordable for libraries and schools**.

500K+ literacy learners and their families

Improved reading skills lead to better jobs, higher wages, and financial independence. Federal funds pay for tools and training for learners, volunteer tutors, and library staff. Over four decades, more than **500,000 adult learners and family members** in 633 libraries across the state have benefitted from California literacy programs.



I was nervous for the job interview, but I remembered all the hard work I put in with my tutor and knew I could do it.

– Adult Learner,
Lincoln Public Library

This program has helped me learn to read. I feel energized that I could read my first book. Words make sense to me now! This skill is moving me forward in life. This program has given me hope.

– Adult Learner,
Riverside County Library System

43K+ Veteran one-on-one appointments

Libraries connect U.S. Veterans to their earned benefits. More than 1.5 million former service members live in California. In one-on-one appointments and in group programs, veterans learn about benefits they are entitled to, prepare for certificate testing, and translate military skills to civilian life. In seven years, they received support in over **43,000** one-on-one appointments, with **104,000** attending educational programs.



4,000+ annual job fair and workshop attendees

Libraries support employment, career development, and skill building for job seekers. Californians visit career fairs and job centers, work with tutors for GED and adult education courses, practice interview skills, and work with library staff to improve their applications and resumes.



150K
eBooks
available
for all
Californians

Group purchasing frees up local library budgets.

Federal dollars pay for shared digital newspaper subscriptions and eBooks, phone support for rural library patrons, and library staff training. Local money is reserved for local patrons' needs. On an annual basis, local library workers attend free classes more than **45,000 times**.



... the most incredible professional support effort in the nation. I am continually surprised and excited seeing the mentorship as it stands on the statewide level.

– Public library worker

6M
Californians
served by
local library
grantees

Grants to local libraries meet local needs. Federal funds bolster libraries' budgets to pay for senior tech help and exercise classes, tool-lending libraries, play spaces for toddlers, and even privacy booths for telehealth appointments in rural areas.



574K+
materials
checked out
annually

Since 1931, Congress has required every state to provide materials to people with blindness and low vision.

California's four regional Braille and Talking Book libraries provide books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and newspapers for the over **797,000** Californians with visual impairment.



1 in 5
Californians
lack access to
high-speed
internet

Libraries connect Californians to the internet. Especially in rural areas, people rely on local libraries for reliable broadband essential for education, workforce and economic development, healthcare appointments, and public safety updates. The federal E-Rate program makes broadband affordable for local libraries and schools.

