

FY 2018-19 Pitch an Idea and Copycat Grants: Frequently Asked Questions

February 2018

How are these grant opportunities different from previous years?

In response to requests from the library community, the State Library is offering three separate funding opportunities for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, replacing the one Pitch an Idea process we have implemented in recent years.

Pitch an Idea Local Grants: This opportunity is most similar to the State Library's traditional Pitch an Idea opportunity. Pitch an Idea Local is targeted at individual library jurisdictions and institutions for projects that will impact their local communities. The preliminary proposal form is shorter than the one used last year and successful applicants will have more time to develop their projects and applications. We are not requiring applicants to pitch their ideas by telephone. However, we may call if we have questions about a proposal.

Pitch an Idea Regional and Statewide Grants: This new grant opportunity gives libraries an opportunity to collaborate on applications for funds to support bigger projects that have regional or statewide impact. We invite applications from libraries and other agencies working collaboratively. Only one agency may serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for the project. Again, we are not requiring applicants to pitch their ideas by telephone. However, we may call if we have questions about a proposal.

Copycat Grants: This is a new grant opportunity that enables libraries to apply for funds to replicate in their community an LSTA project that has been successful elsewhere. This opportunity is open to all libraries and is most suited to those with limited capacity for developing and testing new programming.

Do we have a greater chance of being funded if our project aligns with one of the State Library's targeted areas: economic development and workforce innovation, emerging library practices and innovative approaches, and services to diverse populations?

No. While we are actively seeking Pitch an Idea Regional and Statewide Grant projects in these areas, we welcome applications that align with any of the first five goals in the LSTA Five Year Plan 2018-2022.

If I am already managing a statewide LSTA project, do I need to apply for a Pitch an Idea Regional and Statewide Grant to continue this project?

No. If you are already managing a statewide project, your grant monitor will be in touch to discuss plans for 2018-2019.

Will you accept proposals that overlap with statewide projects that the State Library is currently offering, e.g. Mental Health? Summer Reading? Early Learning?

We welcome proposals for local and regional projects in areas where we already offer statewide projects. Applicants should not submit proposals for statewide projects in areas where we already offer

statewide projects. Successful applicants who are awarded funds for projects in areas that are already supported by a statewide program should expect to coordinate with the established statewide program.

May I apply for funds to support digitization projects?

If your project includes a digitization component that contributes to the development of a resource or tool that addresses a goal in the five year plan, you may include that component in your application. Libraries wishing to digitize local history collections should apply to participate in the California Revealed Project (<https://calpreservation.org/california-revealed/>); the application process will open in Summer 2018, and details will be published on the CALIX listserv and the California State Library's website.

Will my Copycat Grant need to look exactly like the original project?

No. We encourage libraries to present programs that are tailored to the aspirations and needs of their local communities and we anticipate that libraries will make adjustments to the Copycat Grant projects, as needed, to ensure they are successful.

How many grants can my library apply for?

A library jurisdiction or institution may apply for up to one grant in each of the three funding categories. E.g., you might apply for a Pitch an Idea Local grant and also be part of a Pitch an Idea Statewide and Regional proposal and/or apply for a Copycat Project Grant. Libraries may be part of multiple Pitch an Idea Statewide and Regional Grants but they may only be the lead agency on one application in each category. The funding process is competitive and funding is not guaranteed to all applicants. We aim to distribute funds equitably to a variety of libraries in a variety of communities across the state.

Can we set local outcomes for our projects in addition to using the statewide outcome statements and survey questions that are provided by the State Library?

Yes. Applicants are welcome to develop and measure local project outcomes in addition to the outcomes provided by the State Library.

What types of libraries may apply for funds?

We welcome applications from public, academic, school, and special libraries that meet our eligibility guidelines (<http://www.library.ca.gov/Content/StateTemplate/pdf/grants/lsta/LSTAEligibility.pdf>).

I'm not sure I understand the new grant opportunities and how to take best advantage of them.

Please can you help?

The State Library's LSTA Coordinator and Library Programs Consultants are available to answer questions about our LSTA grant opportunities. Please contact us at csllds@library.ca.gov, phone number 916-653-5217.

We are also hosting a Q and A webinar for these funding opportunities on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 11 AM. Here's the login information:

Webinar login: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/6k6cz3bjsmmn&eom>

Dial in for audio (or use computer audio):

Phone number: 866.740.1260

Access code: 3562125

This webinar will be recorded for later viewing.