Date: January 15, 2015

To: California Libraries

From: Greg Lucas
      California State Librarian

Subject: Library Services and Technology Act Grants - Pitch-an-Idea, Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Pitch-an-Idea allows California libraries an opportunity to present a project idea to the State Library before writing a grant proposal. Here’s how it works:

1. Complete the Pitch-an-Idea form -- one per library jurisdiction -- and email it to the State Library by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2015. http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/lsta/apply.html

2. An appointment for a 30-minute telephone “pitch” and conversation will be scheduled during the weeks of March 9-13, 16-20, & 23-27.

3. After reviewing all of the ideas, the State Library will select the most viable projects aligning with the Library Services and Technology Act.

4. If your library’s project is selected, a Library Services and Technology Act application must be submitted by May 18, 2015 to receive funding. Examples of successful grants from previous years will be provided to assist you. If the application is completed successfully, a grant will be awarded.

As you think about what idea(s) to pitch, please consider the following:

- The funding for this round will be available for 12-month projects beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Please propose only projects that can be completed within those 12-months.
- Libraries may submit one project for up to $100,000.
- Be aware of Library Services and Technology Act eligibility rules.
- Prepare a budget that articulates how grant dollars will be spent.
- Each idea submitted must be fully supported by the director and/or library administration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darla Gunning at darla.gunning@library.ca.gov or Mickie Potter at mickie.potter@library.ca.gov.