



## Libraries Statewide Support California's Economic Recovery

**For Immediate Release: September 21, 2020**

Contact: Alex Vassar

(916) 904-2739

[press@library.ca.gov](mailto:press@library.ca.gov)

**[Sacramento, Calif.]** To help our communities recover, new online job search, job training and workforce development tools for veterans and other Californians are now available in all of California's libraries, the State Library announced today. The statewide subscription to the [JobNow](#) and [VetNow](#) platforms from Brainfuse is being paid for with emergency federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds earmarked for California's 1,120 libraries.

"Libraries are centers for resilience and recovery in every California community. As more Californians turn to libraries for help – as they always do during economic downturns – libraries can now offer even more tools to empower and strengthen Californians," said Greg Lucas, State Librarian of California.

The Brainfuse platform helps library patrons to learn new skills, prepare for certification testing, create more impactful resumés, improve interviewing techniques, and search for jobs. Marketing support, staff training opportunities, and individualized statistics on usage are also part of the package.

Historically, libraries have provided essential support to veterans, students, and to those seeking employment and filing unemployment claims by providing access to computers, printers, staff, classes, programs, books, and other resources. Since 2011, the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the California State Library have partnered to create Veteran Resource Centers in public libraries to educate veterans about their benefits and direct them to their local County Veteran Service Offices to file claims.

However, the spread of COVID-19 has demanded a new service paradigm for libraries. Public library staff sought a workforce product that provided individual coaching and live appointments, as well as supported Veterans in not only job seeking but in helping research earned benefits. The Brainfuse products, JobNow and VetNow, offer those elements, including

and especially the in-person support, and will be part of the public libraries' toolkits in support of economic recovery for the next two years.

[VetNow](#) helps veterans become aware of the benefits they've earned and navigate the Veterans Administration system. It also offers workforce tools and job-seeking support. To find out more about veteran benefits, contact the [California Department of Veterans](#) or your local [County Veteran Service Office](#).

Information about how libraries can sign up for JobNow and VetNow is available from the State Library. For more information, contact [Jody.Thomas@library.ca.gov](mailto:Jody.Thomas@library.ca.gov).

# END RELEASE TEXT #

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)