



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2016

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Local Public Libraries Receive More Than \$1 million in Innovation Grants from the State

(Sacramento) More than \$1 million in grants have been awarded to 30 public libraries around the state to help them incubate new ideas and improve service to their communities through the California State Library's "Pitch-An-Idea" program.

Among the successful ideas proposed by local libraries that these federal grant funds will make a reality are bilingual workshops in financial literacy, student homework help in the City of Corona and early learning in San Diego for children who aren't in pre-school.

"Unlike many other states who use these federal funds to cover their operations, California has a long history of putting as much of this money as possible into the hands of local public libraries to help them test new ideas and deliver more services for their communities in even smarter ways," said Greg Lucas, State Librarian.

The 30 successful grants from library jurisdictions were chosen from a highly competitive pool of 65 proposals.

The winning projects for the federal 2016-2017 fiscal year, which begins October 1, serve their communities in a number of ways, including supporting digital literacy, targeting services to underserved communities, promoting lifelong learning, and developing public-private partnerships.

Founded in 1850, the [California State Library](http://www.library.ca.gov) is the state's information hub, preserving California's cultural heritage and connecting people, libraries and government to the resources and tools they need. The State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. The library also holds federal and state publications and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library.

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