



CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES TO ASSIST COVID RECOVERY IN PROPOSED BUDGET

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[Sacramento, Calif.] California’s local libraries would receive nearly \$10 million more in state support over last year in the budget introduced today by Governor Newsom. The increased funding is aimed at helping libraries strengthen local partnerships to improve early learning and outside-of-school opportunities as well as supporting programs that are continuing to help Californians cope with the fallout from the pandemic.

“This is a difficult budget year, but Gov. Newsom is a strong believer in strategic investment and these funds strengthen libraries and build community resilience,” said Greg Lucas, California’s state librarian. “Coupled with the investment the state is continuing to make in boosting library broadband connectivity, California’s 1,128 ‘community hubs’ are becoming better at meeting community needs and expectations.”

Included in the budget is \$5 million to increase early learning opportunities and after-school academic assistance as well as \$3 million to better deliver library services to those who can’t come to the physical library, often a community’s most vulnerable residents.

Another \$800,000 reinvests in a program that helps libraries provide summer meals to kids in need. In 2019, 219 libraries served more than 289,000 meals. During the pandemic, libraries re-invented the program, providing “grab-n-go” meals and learning kits at curbside “drive-thrus.”

Budget funds also help defray costs for the more than 900 local libraries already connected to the same high-speed broadband network as the University of California, the state university system, community colleges, and public schools.

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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](#)