



## **\$1.875 Million Grant Awarded to Improve Californians' Ability to Access the Internet from Home**

California State Library Funds "Home Connectivity Kits" as part of Pandemic Response

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**[Sacramento, Calif.]** The California State Library today announced the award of a \$1.875 million American Rescue Plan Act grant to the Southern California Library Cooperative to provide equipment that helps libraries create more digitally inclusive communities. Libraries statewide will lend this equipment free of charge to all users.

"Libraries are centers for digital access in their communities. There are 23,000 terminals in California's 1,130 libraries and they're being used all day, every day," said State Librarian Greg Lucas. "These federal America Rescue Plan funds make it possible for more libraries to provide greater digital access by checking out Wi-Fi hotspots and laptops to Californians who need them."

Most of the funds will be spent purchasing Chromebooks, hotspots, data plans and essential computing accessories, such as mice and headsets, that will allow users to access the internet from home. With the "Home Connectivity Kits" users can perform everyday tasks such as scheduling a COVID vaccine, completing job applications, video chatting with friends or reading important news and information available on the web.

While all public libraries meeting the program standards are eligible to participate in the Home Connectivity Kit program, demographics such as lower broadband access, lower incomes, and higher unemployment rates, were weighted to help determine funding available for the public libraries throughout the state.

These projects were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.

# END RELEASE TEXT #

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of art, books, diaries, maps, newspapers, periodicals, photographs, and posters from throughout California's rich history. The State Library is also California state government's information hub and 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](#)

**About the Southern California Library Cooperative:** The SCLC is a consortium of 40 independent city, county and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles and Ventura counties which have agreed to cooperate in providing library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. SCLC provides member libraries a resource-sharing network and a means for enhancing the level and diversity of resources available to library users, while reducing duplication of effort.