



Governor's Budget Plan Increases Access to Online Tools Aimed at Addressing the "Great Resignation"

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[Sacramento, Calif.] Californians will continue to have free access through their libraries to a suite of online job training, skill building, academic and vocational exam prep, and professional development tools thanks to an \$8.8 million investment in the budget proposal released today by Gov. Newsom.

The California State Library used one-time federal American Rescue Plan act funds to create CAREer Pathways, an innovative online platform that helps California residents build skills for in-demand jobs in the post-COVID economy.

This investment is aimed at addressing the "Great Resignation," which has seen many Californians leave their jobs due to the pandemic.

The services available through CAREer Pathways [<https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-public/career-pathways>] were developed by some of the top online learning companies, and many typically require a subscription or fee to access. CAREer Pathways makes these skill-building and self-help opportunities accessible—for free—to any Californian library user, either at the library or from home.

The investment by Gov. Newsom allows Californians to keep accessing services like LinkedIn Learning, learning Express and Skillshare through 2024.

"These are valuable resources for all Californians—and a good value investment of taxpayer dollars," said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. "During the pandemic, Californians entered their local libraries through the digital front door rather than the physical front door. These skill-building, self-improvement platforms are exactly the kind of thing they should be finding at their public libraries."

CAREer Pathways offers free access to:

- Coursera [<https://www.coursera.org/>]
- GetSetUp [<https://www.getsetup.io/>]
- LearningExpress [<https://www.learningexpresshub.com/>]
- LinkedIn Learning [<https://www.linkedin.com/learning>]
- Northstar Digital Literacy [<https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org>], and
- Skillshare [<https://www.skillshare.com>].

As an example of the value of these services, the annual cost of subscriptions to access all of Coursera's more than 5,000 online classes, Skillshare's 35,000 videos, GetSetUp's interactive classes, and LinkedIn Learning's suite of courses would cost an individual over \$1,000 per year.

In addition, CAREer Pathways offers resources such as Brainfuse's JobNow/VetNow [https://www.brainfuse.com/highed/home.asp?a_id=415C89BB&ss=&r=] and Career Online High School [<https://ca.careeronlinehs.org>].

Many public libraries offer scholarships to Career Online High School, a program that allows Californians to earn a high school diploma online. To date, more than 2,343 Californians have graduated from the program.

END RELEASE TEXT

About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. Around the state, the State Library also serves California's local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and delivering statewide library programs and services. [State Library website](#)