



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Nick Wilczek, County Librarian
SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County Librarian, or their designee, to submit a grant application for \$100,000 to the LSTA Local and Collaborative Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: There is no application fee for the LSTA Local and Collaborative Grant Program. If awarded, the grant will be managed through the Library budget. The grant application will request the maximum award amount of \$100,000, with 10% for indirect project costs. Staff will bring forward a budget amendment for consideration if the grant is awarded along with the approval of acceptance of grant funds. No general fund is required.

BACKGROUND: At the regular meeting of February 7, 2023, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 23-068, establishing Recreation as a 2023 Board Objective to promote sustainable recreation in partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions to enhance recreational access, support public health and safety, realize economic opportunities, and preserve natural resource assets. Additionally, Resolution No. 23-068 established the new objective of Climate Resilience to safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity, and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions in a way that reflects our rural quality of life.

Per the California State Libraries, "the 2023-2024 Local and Collaborative Grants help California's libraries respond effectively to local needs and align services with local community aspirations; support experimentation and research and development in California's libraries; and provide training and support in grant writing and grant management for the California library community. The funding period is July 2023 – June 2024."

As such, the Nevada County Library in partnership with the Community Development Agency (Planning - Recreation) seeks to expand and strengthen community resources in alignment with the Recreation and Climate Resilience Board Objectives, and the specific initiatives of:

- Elevating benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation through educational content that stewards and protects natural resources.
- Aligning with and supporting efforts to enhance or establish Recreation & Resiliency Hubs
- Developing and strengthening connections, resources, and recreation opportunities in collaboration with Nevada County Library system and recreation partners



- Exploring strategies to support and promote local food production
- Enhancing collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve recreation and climate resilience goals.

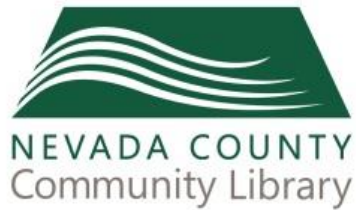
LSTA funding would support the following project deliverables:

- (1) Purchase additional items for the library's Recreation Collection: The Recreation Collection features items such as snowshoes, hiking poles, metal detectors, navigation tools (e.g. trail maps, GPS units), citizen science nature packs and responsible recreation materials. The intent of this collection is to reduce barriers to participation by increasing knowledge, access, and opportunities to connect with nature. Items can be checked out as kits. This is a program that is already in place, which will be enhanced by funding from this grant, if awarded.
- (2) Create a Tool Library: The library will purchase a collection of tools that will be available for check out. This collection will include both hand tools and power tools. This collection supports resiliency in that it reduces barriers to access as equipment costs can be prohibitive for some. Additionally, repairing existing items is often more sustainable than buying new and reduces waste (i.e. of time, money and resources). The library will host quarterly programs to teach community members how to use and maintain tools, as well as projects that can be completed with tools from the library.
- (3) Create a Seed Library: The seed library is a community resource from which library patrons can take and leave seeds. The seeds are labelled, sorted, and available for free. The library will also purchase seeds to supplement supply and host quarterly programs to teach gardening skills.
- (4) Create a Recreation and Resiliency Information Hub: A brochure rack and LCD screen will be installed and feature handouts, short videos, slides, and other materials that promote Recreation and Resiliency throughout our community. This display will promote library events as well as partner organizations and be a "model" hub that can be replicated in public county facilities, like the Rood Center or Vets Hall lobby, as resources allow.
- (5) Community Engagement: Community organizations will be invited to participate in all aspects of this project – to share knowledge, expertise, access resources and/or generate community awareness of related programs and services.

All local and collaborative grant awards must help achieve Goal One of the State Library's Five-Year Plan for LSTA funds, which is to "strengthen the ability of California libraries to design equitable programs and services in collaboration with their local communities." Objectives of this program that meet project goals include:

- Increasing library workers' knowledge of equity principles and practices:

Equity is providing fair treatment, access, and opportunity for the advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented full participation from some individuals or groups. Improving equity involves



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increasing justice and fairness within the procedures and processes of institutions or systems, as well as in their distribution of resources.

- Developing and implementing library practices to foster equity-based community involvement.
- Reducing barriers to service for underserved and marginalized population

As part of the award, successful applicants will receive technical assistance in the way of a library program consultant and/or an equity advisor, participation in State Library-sponsored community of practice workshops, and training that aligns with the LSTA five-year plan.

The application deadline is March 28th, 2023. Blank copies of the budget template, and application instructions, which include application questions are included in this packet. Staff is requesting the Board to authorize the County Librarian, or their designee to apply for \$100,000. If selected for an award, the grant will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval to accept the award.

Item Initiated by: Amy Cobden, Administrative Analyst II

Item Approved by: Nick Wilczek, County Librarian

Submittal Date: March 13, 2023