



# CLA Legislative Day 2009

## TALKING POINTS

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*Note to Legislative Day Participants – PLF & TBR funding information specific to your jurisdiction and legislator is available at <http://www.cla-net.org/legislation/legday.php>*

### ***Public Library Foundation (PLF)***

PLF funding is distributed to all public libraries in California on a per capita basis and supports vital library services and collections in every community in California. PLF funding information specific to your jurisdiction and legislator is available at <http://www.cla-net.org/legislation/legday.php>

- The **ultimate CLA goal is full funding** for the PLF, which would cost approximately \$107 million or approximately \$2.81 per capita.
- **PLF has never been fully funded.** The highest funding for PLF was in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 when \$56.8 million was allocated each year. Since then, PLF funding has declined to less than \$13 million per year. **Once as high as \$1.68 per capita in 1999/2000, it is now at an all time low of \$0.34 per capita in fiscal year 2008-09.**
- The Governor's January budget for 2009/2010 maintains PLF funding at the 2008/2009 level.

### ***Resource Sharing and Transaction-Based Reimbursement (TBR)***

The TBR program reimburses local libraries for loaning books and materials to other libraries' residents. Both direct loan (where the customer comes into the library) and interlibrary loans are reimbursed. TBR funding information specific to your jurisdiction and legislator is available at <http://www.cla-net.org/legislation/legday.php>

- The CLA **ultimate goal is to obtain full funding** for Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) at approved reimbursement rates and expected usage levels. This **would require an additional \$16.2 million** over the approved program budget for 2009/2010.
- In 2007/2008 public libraries loaned over 35 million items through Direct Loan to non-resident borrowers, and shared over 2.8 million items among libraries of all types through Interlibrary Loan. This was achieved at a cost of less than \$0.31 per item.
- The 2007/2008 budget reduced TBR by \$7 million, followed by a further 12.3% reduction in 2008/2009 bringing the estimated reimbursement for the cost of this program to 38%.
- The Governor's January budget for 2009/10 maintains TBR funding at the 2008/2009 level.

## ***California State Library***

- CLA supports **continued funding for the staff and services** of the California State Library, which provides a range of services including the management of federal grant funds under the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

## ***Public Library Capital projects***

- CLA is requesting legislators to support funding of public library capital projects including possible legislation to lower the threshold for future library bond measures to 55% as was done for school bonds.
- CLA is also **asking Legislators to include libraries in any economic stimulus bond package.**

## ***California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) or California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program – Adult Literacy Services***

For 25 years, California's public libraries have provided directed services to low-literate adults and their families, helping Californians of all ages reach their literacy goals.

- CLA **strongly supports sustaining these vital services.** In 2007/2008 the State allocated \$5,064,000 million to support CLLS and the program reached **20,318 adult learners and 60,386 children** through **105 public library jurisdictions.** These adults were able to achieve goals such as getting a driver's license, writing a resume, or reading a book to their child for the first time.
- The core of CLLS services target English speaking adults who struggle with basic reading and writing skills. Instruction is provided confidentially, either one-on-one or in small groups by trained volunteer tutors and is directed by the individual's pace and goals. **CLLS services are unique and are not available elsewhere in the community for this hard-to-reach population, who may have failed in a classroom setting, but thrive in a one-on-one learning environment.**
- The National Center for Education Statistics produced estimates in January 2009 of the percentage of adults with low literacy in individual states and counties. **Some 32 million -- 14% -- of U.S. adults lack basic prose literacy skills – meaning they can't read a newspaper or the instructions on a bottle of pills -- and 23% of California adults fall into this category.** To view estimates by county, see <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/StateEstimates.aspx><sup>1</sup>
- By design state funds are leveraged locally generating over \$15 million additional dollars to assist in providing these services. Those \$15 million would not be available without the state funding. **Every \$1 of state funds leverages \$3 in local and private funds** — a great investment! (In addition, volunteers provide over 750,000 hours of service, generating the equivalent of over \$16 million contributed in volunteer time.)
- **Instruction is provided one-on-one or in small groups by trained volunteer tutors** and is directed by the individual's pace and goals. The fact that these services are provided confidentially in the non-threatening environment of the library are crucial qualities in attracting these hard-to-reach adults who oftentimes are not of a skill and/or comfort level to access or attend traditional

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<sup>1</sup> (NOTE: Statistics were not provided as to English and non-English speakers included in the California numbers, however, in the national study, 2% of those surveyed were found not to speak English well enough to participate in the survey at all, and those individuals are included in the estimates.)

classroom-based programs. Clearly **CLLS services are unique and non-duplicative** as they do not exist elsewhere in our communities.

- **CLLS works!** Of the goals set by adult learners, our data show the following:
  - **65%** of those who set the goal of sharing a book with their child achieved it
  - **55%** were able to complete a job application; **37%** write a resume; **43%** to interview for a job; and **25%** actually secured a new job or were promoted at work
  - **37%** of those who set the goal were able to vote
  - **76%** of those who did not use the library prior to getting literacy help, began using the library regularly; **83%** of those who had never had a library card, received one; and **66%** took their children to storytime at the library. \* Results are based on 13,441 adults reporting over a six-month period in 2007/08
  - Annually **over 10,000 volunteers serve as tutors** of adult learners and **provide over 750,000 hours of volunteer time**. Using EDD's average California hourly wage figure for 2007 of \$21.78, that's a total of over **\$16 million contributed** in volunteer time.
  - CLLS is truly a state local partnership. By design, state funds are leveraged locally generating over \$15 million additional dollars to assist in providing these services. Those \$15 million would not be available without the state funding. **Every \$1 of state funds leverages \$3** in local and private funds — a great investment!
  - In addition to services for adults, CLLS also extends support for literacy in California through Families For Literacy, English Language & Literacy Intensive and Mobile Library Literacy Services. The State Library provides oversight and technical assistance in support of CLLS. For more information, please visit [www.libraryliteracy.org](http://www.libraryliteracy.org).

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*In addition to the above talking points, Legislative Day is an opportunity to highlight the services that are important to residents in your particular district. Many legislators are not aware of the broad range of services we provide and the number of lives we touch each and every day. You have a powerful story to tell, and this is your chance.*