



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: MAY 11, 2026**
FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE GRANT APPLICATION, AND RECEIPT OF LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY GRANT AWARD, FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,309

ISSUES:

Receive an update on the grant application and receipt of a Lunch at the Library grant award from the California State Library in the amount of \$56,309, or the actual award.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on the grant application, and receipt of a Lunch at the Library grant award from the California State Library in the amount of \$56,309, or the actual award.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or to supplement City funds to enable unique program opportunities for the community. Grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding sources available through, State, Federal, or other agencies to assist in covering the costs of selected projects.

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California. Lunch at the Library was developed by the California Library Association and the California Summer Meal Coalition, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The California Summer Meal Coalition (CSMC) and California Library Association (CLA) are working with libraries and meal providers across California to offer summer lunch programs that are designed to provide nourishment and summer enrichment for children and teens. All library meal sites provide free summer lunches and engage families with library programs and services. Some libraries are extending the impact of their lunch programs by providing arts, literacy, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programming for participating children and teens.

DISCUSSION:

On January 8, 2026, the Riverside Public Library received notification from the California State Library of the grant award for the Lunch at the Library Program Fiscal Year 2025/26 for the total amount of \$56,309 (Attachment 1). The Riverside Public Library will receive \$50,678 of the award upon execution and approval of the grant agreement, certification and claim forms (Attachment 2). The remaining funding will be made available according to the payment schedule and upon the completion of the grant agreement requirements.

This funding will support the Riverside Public Library Lunch at the Library Program for Summer 2026 and engage families with library programs and services. Funds will support programming of the STREAM Mobile to four (4) community centers that will be hosting the lunch program. At these four (4) locations the Riverside Public Library will offer a storytime, an activity, and a STREAM project for ten (9) weeks. This will provide the community and children with the ability to register for a library card, check out books and return books, and register for the Summer Reading Program. Funds will be used to purchase supplies needed to create weekly activity or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program project bags that can be distributed at pop up sites. These bags will be used to entertain and express creativity. Funds will also be used to purchase books in both Spanish and English for distribution to the youth participating in the summer lunch program.

The budget for the Lunch at the Library Program is in the following table:

Budget Description	Amount
Salaries/Wages/Benefits ¹	\$16,309
Supplies and Materials	\$29,000
Services (Contracted)	\$11,000
Project Total	\$56,309
Total Award Amount	\$56,309

Children will be able to visit the Main Library, La Sierra Library, and Eastside Library at Lincoln Park locations and receive a meal from Riverside Unified School District for nine (9) weeks. An activity or a book that will encourage the use of the library, provide entertainment, or express creativity will be provided at these locations. Paid performers will host programs during lunchtime to provide enrichment opportunities for the children participating at the meal sites. American Sign Language interpreters will also be at each of these performances.

The grant term is February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027, and all eligible program costs must be incurred by this date.

A staff report will be presented to the City Council on April 28, 2026, to authorize the grant application, receipt of the award and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the grant documents with the California State Library.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is not fiscal impact associated with this update.

Prepared by: Jorge Rocha, Principal Management Analyst
 Approved by: Erin Christmas, Library Director

Attachments:

1. Award Notice
2. Agreement