

# 23-24 Inspiration Application ▾

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## 23-24 LSTA GRANT APPLICATION

### CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATION'S ELIGIBILITY

Organizations applying for any LSTA opportunity must meet the general guidelines for LSTA eligibility (<https://www.library.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LSTAEligibility.pdf>).

The Inspiration Grants opportunity is open to California libraries. Libraries with up to 14 outlets may apply for one grant; libraries with between 15 and 30 outlets may apply for two grants; libraries with 31 or more outlets may apply for three grants.

The minimum funding request is \$5,000 and the maximum funding request is \$100,000.

Applicants should have at least one community connection in place before submitting an application. Applicants requesting \$75,000 or more should have at least one project partner, in addition to a community connection, before submitting an application.

**Do you certify that your organization is eligible for this LSTA grant program? \***

Yes

No

## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

## AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

The Authorized Representative is the legally designated representative of the applicant organization. The legally designated representative has the legal authority to enter into an agreement authorizing execution of the agreement and is authorized to receive and expend funds in order to administer the proposed grant project. The individual designated in the application as the Authorized Representative will be responsible for signing any potential award materials requiring signature (e.g. award agreement, payment claim forms, report forms, budget modification requests, and more), should the proposed project be funded, and must have the power to do so within their organization. Please note this person may or may not be the same person identified in your profile.

**Authorized Representative Prefix \***

Ms. ▾

**Authorized Representative Name \***

Barbra Chapman

**Authorized Representative Title \***

Acting Director

**Authorized Representative Business Phone Number \***

707-367-8216

Please use the format 123-456-7890.

**Authorized Representative Email Address \***

chapmanb@mendocinocounty.gov

**Authorized Representative Street Address \***

105 N. Main St.

**Authorized Representative City \***

Ukiah

**Authorized Representative State \***

California

**Authorized Representative Zip Code \***

95482-4403

Nine-digit zip code must be entered in the format 12345-6789.

## PROJECT COORDINATOR INFORMATION

The Project Coordinator is the person who would manage the day-to-day activities of the proposed project, and who would serve as the primary point of contact with the State Library.

**Project Coordinator Prefix \***

Ms.

**Project Coordinator Name \***

Lily Rojo

**Project Coordinator Title \***

Department Application Specialist

**Project Coordinator Email Address \***

rojol@mendocinocounty.gov

**Project Coordinator Business Phone Number \***

707-234-2861

Please use the format 123-456-7890.

## FISCAL REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION (Optional)

If your agency requires a fiscal or legal representative to review your grant award documentation before signing, please enter that person's contact information here. This information will be used during the DocuSign process. It is optional.

**Fiscal Representative Prefix (Optional)****Fiscal Representative Name (Optional)****Fiscal Representative Title (Optional)****Fiscal Representative Email Address (Optional)****Fiscal Representative Business Phone Number (Optional)**

Please use the format 123-456-7890.

**UEI \***

YKKJQXMKJNL7

Enter your organization's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**EIN \***

946000520

Enter your organization's Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN).

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**PROJECT TITLE \***

Build-a-Robot with the the Mendocino County Library

**California's LSTA Goals \***

Goal 1: Equitable Access, Trusted Community Space

The 23-24 Inspiration Grants LSTA Goal is Goal 1.

**Primary Audience(s) for Project \***

- Adults
- Families
- Immigrants/Refugees
- Intergenerational Groups (Excluding Families)
- Library Staff, Volunteers and/or Trustees
- Low Income
- Non/Limited English Speaking
- People with Disabilities
- People with Limited Functional Literacy
- Pre-School Children
- Rural Populations
- School Age Children
- Senior Citizens
- Statewide Public
- Suburban Populations
- Unemployed
- Urban Populations
- Young Adults and Teens

## BRIEF ABSTRACT

**Brief Abstract Response \***

The Mendocino County Library will develop and present Build-a-Robot programs for kids and teens to enhance and promote STEM hands-on learning through a series of three workshops at every branch and at two outreach community locations.

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Provide a brief summary of your project including what you will do, for whom, and for what expected benefit. (Word limit: 60).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe what you will do, how you will do it, what you aim to achieve, why, and for whom. (Word limit: 300).

**Project Description Response \***

The Mendocino County Library will develop and present fun robotics programs for kids and teens to enhance and promote STEM hands-on learning. This program series will take place at the six branches within Mendocino County, and at two outreach locations. Children and teens will learn to build small robots from kits, as well as basic coding, through instruction and supplies provided by the grant and library staff. This program series will feature different kinds of robots that can walk, jump, crawl, drive, doodle, and vacuum, with each participant having the option of taking home a robot buddy they have constructed for themselves.

The Library aims to provide stimulating experiences for youth who will learn by doing, with first-hand practical applications of introductory mechanical engineering and software coding. These activities will teach valuable motor skills such as hand-eye coordination and tactical manipulation of objects.

Mendocino County is a rural, impoverished area with limited resources for STEM activities. It occupies a large geographical area of 3,800 square miles, which provides additional barriers to the public who seek to receive equitable educational resources. Younger children especially do not have access to entry-level programs involving robotics, engineering, or coding in our under-funded schools. The Library is one of the few institutions that can provide these types of much needed science and technology activities to a large number of children and teens from varied socio-economic and culturally diverse backgrounds, helping to improve equity among youth and improve valuable connections within the community.

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## AGENCY INFORMATION

### Agency Information Response \*

The proposed Build-a-Robot project aligns with the Mendocino County Library's Strategic plan goal to develop programs to teach technology skills to patrons, as well as funding new technology initiatives. It also supports the mission and values of the library which aims to inform, connect, and create opportunities for discovery, while also promoting inclusion, equity, and free access to information. Additionally, the outreach events provide a way to carry out the goal of reaching out to communities that may not have a public library branch nearby. This project would be the first large scale STEM program that would be provided to all of our branches throughout Mendocino County.

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Describe how the proposed project aligns with your agency's mission, values, strategic plan, goals, and/or other activities. (Word limit: 150).

If this project has been supported with LSTA funds in the past, describe the project's current status, any results, lessons learned, and impact to date, and why you are seeking additional funds. (Word limit: 300) If this is a new project, enter "N/A."

### Multi-Year Project: Impact to Date Response \*

N/A

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## MULTI-YEAR PROJECT: FUTURE YEARS

If this project is expected to take more than one year to implement fully, please describe your plans for future years and how this year's activities contribute to your plans as a whole. (Word limit: 150) If this is a one-year project, enter "N/A."

### Multi-Year Project: Future Years Response \*

N/A

Word Count: 1 / 150

## COMMUNITY NEEDS, ASPIRATIONS, AND ASSETS

Describe the community need(s) that this project is intended to meet, the community aspiration(s) with which it is intended to align, and how your project will respond to your stated community needs and aspirations. (Word limit: 300).

### Community Needs, Aspirations, and Assets Response \*

This project is intended to meet the community need for STEM learning activities for youth. These activities are meant to supplement primary educational school-based learning by encouraging youth to expand their knowledge outside of the classroom.

There are a few factors that make this project especially relevant for Mendocino County residents. The poverty rate of Mendocino County is high at 16.3%, with most of the towns with library branches in the 18-19% range. In the smallest, most rural towns it is even higher: in the town of Covelo, the 2021 poverty rate was 37.5%, three times the CA State average. Almost half of those living below the poverty level are children. Covelo also has a large Indigenous youth population that has faced many socio-economic and political/cultural struggles over the history of the area and is in a geographically isolated location. Many of the barriers the Indigenous population face are also affecting our Hispanic/Latino population, which accounts for 28% of residents as of 2022.

All of these factors can serve as barriers to equal access and place these communities at a disadvantage, especially regarding STEM education. This project will address these issues head on by providing all activities, supplies, and services for free to all participants, eliminating the barrier of financial inequality that could otherwise restrict access. We will promote the events through social media, fliers, schools, and community centers.

We will also visit and present activities in these marginalized communities with equal access to projects, available to both kids and teens, at our library branches in Covelo, Point Arena, Laytonville, Willits, Fort Bragg, and Ukiah, as well as attending outreach events at two or more locations without a library branch. This will ensure that we make it as easy as possible for the people in these communities to participate.

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## EQUITY-BASED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Describe how your project has been designed and will be implemented in collaboration with the marginalized community(ies) on which your project will focus and other members of your community. (Word limit: 300).

### Equity-Based Community Involvement Response \*

Mendocino County has a significant population of low-income residents spread across a large rural area. Several of our smaller library branches are in these low-income, rural and geographically isolated areas, including branches in Covelo, Laytonville, Willits, and Point Arena. We plan to provide equal access to the Robot Buddies project at all our branches, large and small, with an equal number of events held at each branch. Covelo especially has a large population of members of the Round Valley Indigenous tribes.

We also plan to hold at least two outreach events for this project in communities that contain large populations of marginalized people, including at least one of our local Native American Rancherias. We recognize that it is important to provide equal access to educational and recreational opportunities to as many members of our community as possible, with a focus on those who have been historically underserved. In our area, this includes our Native American and Hispanic populations, among others. Having this type of community involvement with children and teens and their families is especially important, as it will give them experience with innovative technology and opportunities for STEM learning that may be difficult to come by otherwise. It will also further the connection of the Library with these communities, strengthening our future partnerships and relationships with the public, and helping to secure the next generation of Library patrons and supporters.

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## PROJECT PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Applicants should have at least one community connection in place before submitting an application. Applicants requesting \$75,000 or more should have at least one project partner, in addition to a community connection, before submitting an application.

Please describe formal partners. Organizations or individuals who are contractors under the project are not considered partners.

**How many project partners are included in your project? Please describe formal partners. Attach to the application a copy of a signed agreement for each partner. Agreements should confirm the partner’s role in the project and the resources the partner will contribute to the project. \***

0

**How many community connections are included in your project? Please describe community connections. Attach any letters of support to your application. \***

1

**Describe how this community connection will contribute to the project and help achieve the project’s objectives. (1) \***

The Redwood Valley Rancheria is located in a valley between the Willits and Ukiah branch and will provide a remote location for one of the Build-a-Robot programs promoting the activity in the community and provide a liaison and possibly a helper to assist.

**Upload any letters of support to your application. (1)**

+ Select a file

## PROJECT INTENT

Please describe the objective or expected result of the project.

### Project Intent

Lifelong Learning: Improve users' knowledge or abilities beyond basic access to information

## ANTICIPATED PROJECT OUTPUTS

Please list services to be provided and/or products to be created in this project, including the approximate number of each. See instructions for more detail.

### Anticipated Project Outputs Response \*

The Build-a-Robot programs will add to the participants education and skills through 20 events at 6 Library branches and 2 outreach events. The program will improve access to information by providing 306 STEM books for participants personal libraries and 105 STEM books to add to the Library branches collections.

## EVALUATION PLANS

What are your plans for evaluating the project's impact? Please describe the impact you aim to achieve as well as how you will measure whether or not you were successful. Please note: the State Library will provide you with surveys to use to evaluate project activities and fulfill IMLS requirements in addition to other evaluation measures you implement.

### Evaluation Plans Response \*

In addition to the provided surveys will create a survey for the staff and Branch Managers, and our community connection. We will use the feedback to analyze the success of the project, including strengths and weaknesses, etc., and use it to develop ideas for future projects.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Should this project be successful, how will it be supported and sustained in the future?

### Sustainability Response \*

The Library anticipates that the project will be successful and the Sphero coding robots will be reusable for future programming. Additional robotics programming may be sustainable on a smaller scale depending on community interest and funding. Each branch may decide to have smaller, less frequent workshops a couple of times per year working alongside a community connection. Another option would be to have branches with an especially interested community develop a robotics or STEM youth club in conjunction with a community connection that meets several times a year. These activities could be funded by regular library program funding by each branch, Friends of the Library groups, and possibly by the community connection organization.

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