

October 13, 2026

Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**REQUEST TO ACCEPT IN-KIND DONATION FROM CALIFA THROUGH
THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY THROUGH THE TEENS
SUCCEED ACROSS CALIFORNIA GRANT
(Fiscal Impact: None)**

The Kern County Library seeks approval by your Board to accept an in-kind donation from Califa, through the California State Library, in the form of CLA registration, CLA travel (mileage/flight etc. and hotel), Chromebooks, engineering tools, 22 robotics program sets, including 11 robots for teens and 11 robots for school-aged youth. This donation was made possible through the Teens Succeed Across California Grant.

Teens Succeed Across California is a statewide initiative supporting libraries in creating meaningful teen volunteer opportunities and hands-on learning experiences. During the 2026–2027 fiscal year, the project focuses on STEM learning through robotics, providing participating libraries with robotics kits, tools, and specialized training to help teens and library staff deliver programs for children and teens. Teen volunteers will develop and lead robotics activities while building STEM skills, workforce readiness, leadership experience, and other developmental assets through structured learning experiences.

Kern County Library has a strong foundation in teen volunteer and youth programming. During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, teens participated in a variety of activities, including author visits, mental health workshops, oral history projects, and youth programming. The Library has also offered robotics, technology, science, renewable energy, and other STEM-related programs over the past decade through staff expertise and community partnerships. Teens Succeed will build on these experiences by providing the training, resources, and support needed to develop more consistent and sustainable robotics programming.

Through the 2026–2027 Teens Succeed Across California Grant, Kern County Library will engage teen volunteers as peer leaders, coaches, and role models who can help younger youth and their peers explore robotics and STEM. The Library will receive up to 22 robotics kits, participate in specialized staff training and Communities of Practice, and provide three teen volunteer-led robotics programs for teens and three for children. This

opportunity will strengthen the Library's capacity to provide hands-on STEM learning while helping teens develop leadership, technical, and workforce-ready skills that can connect their experiences to future educational and career pathways.

The County Administrative Office has reviewed and concurs with this request.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board accept an in-kind donation valued at \$11,250 from Califa, through the California State Library through the Teens Succeed Across California Grant in the form of CLA registration, CLA travel (mileage/flight etc. and hotel), Chromebooks, engineering tools, 22 robotics program sets, including 11 robots for teens and 11 robots for school-aged youth and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of appreciation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andie Sullivan", followed by a horizontal line.

Andie Sullivan,
Director of Libraries

AS:SP:am

cc: CAO
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

Teens Succeed is an initiative that will support libraries in designing and delivering teen volunteer opportunities focused on robotics programming for children and teens. Participating teen volunteers will develop and lead robotics programs for teens and younger youth in their communities while building STEM skills, workforce readiness, and developmental assets through structured learning experiences.

Participating libraries will:

- Attend a kick-off training at the **CLA Annual Conference on October 22, 2026 10:15am-12:15pm** (travel reimbursement available). This will be a “train-the-trainer” session focused on building and coding the Robotics Kits.
- Participate in four virtual **Communities of Practice** to share program ideas and strategies, and to connect with partners and mentors who support youth.
- Receive up to 22 **robotics program sets**, including 11 robots for teens and 11 robots for school-aged youth.
- Receive support identifying **robotics/engineering mentors** to help teens connect program skills and experiences to real-world learning and career pathways.
- Provide 3 teen volunteer led robotics training programs for teens and 3 robotics training programs for children.
- Commit up to 2 hours per week liaising with teen volunteers and/or providing 3 training programs for teens and 3 training programs for children (led by teen volunteer)

*This project was made possible in part by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**.*

Email:

andie.sullivan@kernlibrary.org

Your Name:

Andie Sullivan

Your Library Jurisdiction:

Kern County Library

Confirmation on active participation:

✓ I will respond to requests for information and/or reports for this grant project.

Confirmation of CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) compliance:

✓ Yes, my library is CIPA compliant.

Confirmation that your library has completed (will complete) its Public Libraries Survey for the most recent fiscal year:

✓ Yes! My library has completed the most recent Public Libraries Survey.

Confirmation your designated library staff trainer will attend the Teens Succeed “Train the Trainer” session at the CLA Conference on Oct 22, 2026, 10:15am-12:15pm (travel reimbursement will be provided):

✓ A library staff trainer will attend the Teens Succeed “Train the Trainer” session at CLA.

Do you have available space or storage for 22 robotics kits (Dimensions: approximately 9”x5”x5.5”):

✓ Yes.

Does your library have experience with teen volunteer programs?

✓ Yes.

Briefly tell us about any robotics or STEM programming your library has provided (if any – past experience not required):

Over the past decade, the Kern County Library has offered a variety of STEM- and robotics-related workshops, program series, and activities on an intermittent basis. The scope and frequency of these programs have varied based on available staff expertise, community partnerships, and the interests of individual staff members.

Programming has included robotics and technology activities, Roblox-related programs, science workshops, and solar and renewable energy programming in partnership with local solar companies. The Library has also partnered with local professionals and community experts, including women engineers who have led science-focused programming designed to encourage young girls to explore STEM fields.

Why do you believe your library is a good fit for the Teens Succeed robotics training program?

Kern County Library would like to offer more consistent and sustainable robotics programming for the teens we serve. The kits and training would provide library staff with the knowledge, confidence, and tools needed to move beyond occasional programming and develop a more intentional approach to robotics. We are also excited about the opportunity to engage teens as peer leaders, models, and coaches who can help other teens explore and engage with science, technology, and robotics.

We are especially interested in a program that empowers library staff to bring robotics to teens in an engaging and approachable way. The Teens Succeed robotics training program would help us strengthen staff capacity, build a foundation for ongoing programming, and give us the ability to grow robotics and STEM-related programs over time.



Kern County Library
Andie Sullivan, MLIS
Director of Libraries
701 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Andie,

Welcome to the Teens Succeed Cohort!

I want to say thank you to Kern County Library for expressing interest in Teens Succeed 26/27 grant! 34 libraries will be participating in this project and Kern County Library has been approved to participate. Califa has partnered with the California State Library to manage this grant and we will coordinate with you on delivery of supplies and equipment for your robotics programs.

Attached is an overview of some important program information.

In addition, some details of importance to each participating library includes the following:

- Grant funding information. Federal Assistance Listing ID: 45.310. LSTA Award No.: LS-C-26-11.
- Each library will receive up to \$11,250 for equipment and California Library Association (CLA) conference registration and travel for a train-the-trainer robotics session on October 22, 10:15-12:15 at the CLA conference in Riverside CA. This breaks down to:
 - \$350.00 CLA registration
 - \$500.00 CLA travel (mileage/flight etc. and hotel).
 - \$1,600.00 Chromebooks
 - \$1,500.00 Engineering Tools
 - \$3,300.00 11 Kids robotics kits
 - \$4,000.00 11 Teen robotics kits

You will shortly be receiving a few calendar invites. If there is another staff member you would like to attend any of the VIRTUAL community of practice meetings, please feel free to forward the meeting invitation.

We are really looking forward to learning more about your work with teens and sharing an excitement for robotics with you all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula MacKinnon".

Paula MacKinnon
Executive Director
Califa Group
330 Townsend St. Suite 133
San Francisco CA 94107



pmackinnon@califa.org

Teens Succeed 2026 2027 LSTA Grants

Welcome to the Teens Succeed cohort! We are very excited to work with you on bringing STEM learning and career skills to young adults. The program can be a bit tricky to think through, so this document will have very helpful reminders and resources you can refer to as you plan and execute your program.

Purpose

One thing to keep in mind – your primary audience, the folks you are designing the benefit of the program for, is first and foremost the teen volunteers. A secondary audience is the teens that attend the robotics programs and the kids and families that attend the robotics programs. Your program should center on the positive outcomes for the teen volunteers – the good that those volunteers produce for other teens and families is an excellent, secondary, objective.

Schedule:

September 24 10-11 AM: Welcome, Overview and CLA Prep

October 22 10:15-12:15: CLA In Person Training. Robotics Assembly and Train the Trainer

November 11 10-11 AM: CoP #1

January 21 10-11 AM: CoP #2

March 18 10-11 AM: CoP #3

May 20 10-11 AM: CoP#4

Meeting invites should be forthcoming.

[Book time with Chris](#)

Contact Paula paula@califa.org

Reporting:

[Participant Needs Form](#). Due October 1, 2026.

[Interim Report](#): Due January 8, 2027.

Final Report (link forthcoming) : Due June 30, 2027.

Bookmark these Pages:

- [State Library Teens Succeed program page](#)
- [Califa Page](#)
- [Parallax homepage](#)
- [Parallax Learn](#)
- [Search Institute Surveys](#) (for teen volunteers)
- [LSTA Outcome Surveys](#) (for program participants)



Grant Compliance

LSTA Funding Acknowledgement

Publications and information releases about an LSTA project, as well as LSTA project-produced materials (e.g. project websites, toolkits, outreach materials, etc.), must credit the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). An appropriate statement is:

This [publication/project] is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Esta [publicación / proyecto] es apoyada en su totalidad o en parte por el Instituto de Servicios de Museos y Bibliotecas de EE. UU. según las provisiones del acta de Servicios y Tecnología de Bibliotecas, administrada en California por el Bibliotecario del Estado.

As appropriate, this disclaimer should be added:

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services or the California State Library, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services or the California State Library should be inferred.

Las opiniones expresadas en este documento no reflejan necesariamente la posición ni póliza del Instituto de Servicios de Museos y Bibliotecas de los EE. UU. o la Biblioteca Estatal de California, como tampoco infiere ningún respaldo oficial por parte del Instituto de Servicios de Museos y Bibliotecas de los EE. UU. o la Biblioteca Estatal de California.

California State Library and IMLS Logos Logos:

The California State Library logo is optional. If you choose to include the logo on materials, please use the updated, [official high-quality versions found here](#).

[Please use the oficial IMLS logos located here.](#)

Accessibility

The State is responsible for ensuring that public resources are accessible to both the general public and state employees, including persons with disabilities. Awardees shall assist the State in meeting this responsibility. Therefore, LSTA-funded project materials must meet the California Accessibility Standards. Additionally, all project materials designed, developed, and maintained shall be in compliance with the California Government Code, sections 7405 and 11135, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, or a subsequent version, as published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium at a minimum Level AA success criteria.

If for some reason project material is not generated to be in compliance to meet these standards, please still submit it to the State Library. When submitting the material make sure to note that the material is not accessible by including "NOT ACCESSIBLE" in the file name.



The California State Library reserves the right to post project materials to its website that are in compliance with these standards.

October 13, 2026

California State Library
State Librarian, Greg Lucas
900 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-4869

Dear California State Library:

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, thank you for your generous donation of a CLA registration, CLA travel (mileage/flight etc. and hotel), Chromebooks, engineering tools, and 22 robotics program sets, to the Kern County Library system through Califa and the Teens Succeed Across California Grant.

Kern County sincerely appreciates this contribution, valued at \$11,250, provided through the Teen Succeed Across California Grant. These resources will enhance our libraries capacity to provide hands-on STEM learning while helping teens develop leadership, technical, and workforce-ready skills that can connect their experiences to future educational and career pathways.

Thank you again for your generosity and investment in our community. We look forward to the lasting impact these enhancements will have on library patrons throughout Kern County.

Sincerely,

Phillip Peters
Chairman, Kern County Board of Supervisors