



Dear Library Trustees,

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) Legislative Committee has requested that this message be forwarded to library board trustees to request their participation in the Committee's annual library advocacy efforts.

Library Advocacy is an opportunity to raise awareness to state legislators of the valuable work and services provided by publicly supported libraries located all over our state. In the past, library advocates have converged on the State Capitol to engage legislators on one day. Members of the Legislative Committee will contact all members of the Colorado General Assembly, but our messaging has strength in numbers.

We are asking library board trustees from all areas of the state to contact the legislators in their districts to thank them for funding the State Grants to Libraries Program, to ask that funding be maintained at current levels, and how your libraries provide critical services to your communities. As library trustees are dedicated volunteers, library supporters, and often community leaders, we feel it is especially valuable for our legislators to hear from you and to build those relationships. You might consider working with your director on a future invitation to lawmakers to visit your library or offer space to meet with constituents.

**What you can do:** Engage your legislators virtually, such as by writing an email (our team has also developed [a template](#)). You may want to collaborate with your director. If you know any other library champions in your community, feel free to pass along this information.

**Background for your message:**

- More information about the [State Grants to Libraries](#) program
- The Colorado Sun has [an introduction](#) to the State Budget process.
- The General Assembly has a tool to [find your legislator](#)
- The 6 legislators on the [Joint Budget Committee](#) are especially important to reach out to

**What to include in your message:** Express gratitude for last year's appropriation and ask that State Grants to Libraries be maintained at its current level of \$3m. CAL Legislative Committee has developed the additional talking points that may help you craft your specific message:

- Libraries build community. They are trusted, safe spaces where people come together (virtually or in person) to learn, grow and explore ideas. *Share about your community.*
- State funding promotes the development of all types of publicly supported free library service to ensure equal access to information through the State Grants to Libraries program. *Share information specific stories, quotes, etc., about the grant's impact.*
- Libraries are critical infrastructure for our community during times of crisis. *Share how your library has adapted to the challenges of the past year.*

Your library director or library communications staff may be able to help with specific talking points related to your library system, such as how grant funds were spent.

**When to send your message:** The State Budget is typically released in the latter half of March. During **the week of March 6-10**, our team will send personalized materials to each General Assembly member. We ask that you aim to make contact with your legislators and the JBC by mid-March.

If you would like to participate in Library Advocacy Day, we are here to support you! If you have any questions, please email [aarmstrong@ald.lib.co.us](mailto:aarmstrong@ald.lib.co.us).

Thanks,  
Your Library Advocacy Day Committee