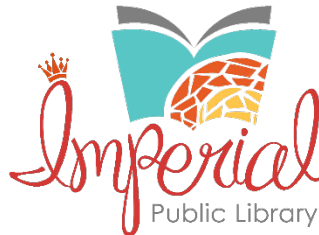


**Imperial City Library Board of Trustees**

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**STAFF REPORT**  
**Agenda Item No. B-3**

**To:** Imperial Public Library Board of Trustees

**From:** Library Administrator, Ember Haller

**Date:** July 5, 2024

**Subject:** Review and Discussion of Grant Opportunity and Library Services for Aging/Dementia/Alzheimer's

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**Summary/Background:**

The California State Library announced its 2024-25 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Inspiration Grants application period to open July 10 and close August 21. The minimum funding request is \$20,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. The project period must be implemented October 1, 2024 and completed by June 30, 2025. This opportunity provides funding for libraries to implement projects outside the State Library's other funding opportunities. It is required to have at least one community connection in place before submitting the application. Applicants requesting \$75,000 or more should have at least one project partner, in addition to a community connection, before submitting the application.

Additionally, another grant opportunity from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities was revealed while attending the "Library Services for Dementia/Alzheimer's Interest Group" session at the ALA Conference. This grant application is scheduled to open Fall 2024.

The two grant opportunities provide the library opportunities to better serve the community through services not currently available through the general budget.

One potential for the library to improve is its practice towards meeting the needs of older adults and support people with dementia and their caregivers. Statistics show people ages 65 and older are the fastest growing population in the United States. In light of the new senior living complex, Imperial Village, providing 68 apartments for low-income individuals over the age of 62 located within one block of the library and the existing senior living complex on Barioni Boulevard, library accessibility and services will need to improve to better serve the needs of our community. Opportunities to improve include:

- Improve physical accessibility
- Provide staff development
- Provide opportunities for social connection and visibility
- Provide programming that includes literacy activities designed for older adults
- Provide best reading material for older adults and those living with dementia
- Bridge the digital divide through providing older patrons access to the internet and resources to become competent users of digital technology
- Provide outreach at the senior living complexes

- Provide resources for people with dementia, memory loss, or cognitive impairment and their families
  - Memory kit collection serving early stage, mid-stage, and late stage dementia. Each kit will include an interactive activity, CD with soothing or memory sparking music, book with colorful illustrations created for people with memory loss, *Caregiver's Guide to Dementia*, and a tip sheet and booklist to serve as a resource for the person and their family.

**Recommendation:**

The grant prospects provide an opportunity for Trustees to review and discuss inclusive library services that will best fit the needs of the community.