



Riverside County  
Library System



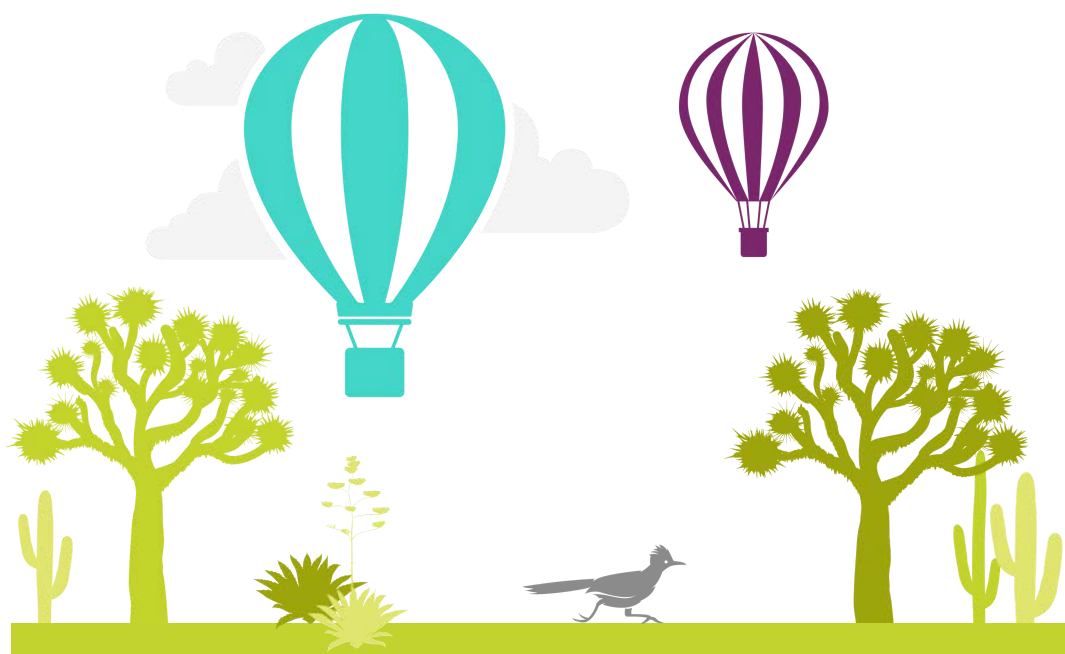
# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023-2024



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# Letter from the Chief Librarian



I am pleased to report that our library system continues to grow and evolve, deepening its impact on the community and embodying our mission of providing welcoming spaces, trusted information, and enriching experiences for a thriving Riverside County.

This year has been one of connection. We've helped children develop a love for reading, teens interested in college and careers, and adults at all life stages acquire and apply skills. Families have discovered much needed resources, enjoyed cultural celebrations, and educational programs have thrived throughout our diverse communities.

In July 2024, we embraced a transformative change by becoming fine-free across all libraries. This decision removed daily fines for overdue items and included a one-time forgiveness of existing fines, ensuring libraries remain accessible and welcoming to all.

On the horizon, exciting projects are forthcoming. Indio Library celebrated its groundbreaking for a new, state-of-the-art facility set to reopen in Spring 2025.

Efforts like these show our dedication to developing spaces of connection and learning. We thank our partners at the Office of Economic Development, without whom, none of this would be possible. We also thank our community partners, Friends of the Library and our patrons. Your support, excitement, and belief in the transformative and enduring power of libraries mean so much!

**Joan Tyler | Chief Librarian**



# RCLS USE AT A GLANCE

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**> 2.7 M**

PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**162,424**

EBOOKS  
CHECKED OUT



**151,459**

EAUDIOBOOKS  
CHECKED OUT



**9,724**

VOLUNTEERS



**> 1.8 M**

LIBRARY VISITS



**41,510**

NEW CARDS  
ISSUED



**153,141**

PROGRAMS  
ATTENDED



**138,485**

USE OF  
COMPUTERS



**651,677**

WIRELESS  
SESSIONS



# Partnerships

## Bi-National Education Week with Mexican Consulate

The Riverside County Library System (RCLS) Literacy Services was invited to collaborate with the San Bernardino Mexican Consulate, which serves both San Bernardino and Riverside counties, for its Bi-National Education Week celebration in August. On August 22, 2024, Leticia and her team held a Facebook Live session to highlight the variety of resources and educational opportunities available at RCLS libraries, including mobile services such as ESL and family literacy resources.

The Literacy Services team also visited the Mexican Consulate twice during the week and held several informational sessions throughout the day, with attendance reaching a minimum of 30 people per session. During each session, they assisted participants with signing up for library cards and registering for family literacy programs.

## REFORMA

REFORMA, an affiliate of the American Library Association, is dedicated to promoting library and information services for Latinos and Spanish-speaking communities. The Riverside County Library System (RCLS) collaborates with the REFORMA Inland Empire (IE) Chapter to provide professional development opportunities for RCLS staff through programming, events, and outreach initiatives aimed at Spanish-speaking communities across Riverside County.

Through this partnership, REFORMA IE has achieved significant milestones in 2023-2024. The organization has donated Spanish-language books to the Children in Crisis initiative, addressing the literacy needs of asylum-seeking children. Additionally, the partnership has supported local cultural arts by hosting events that feature Latine musical performances and zine workshops, fostering the storytelling and cultural expression of the local Latine community.

REFORMA IE remains committed to its collaboration with RCLS, striving to expand its initiatives and continue supporting Spanish-speaking communities throughout Riverside County.

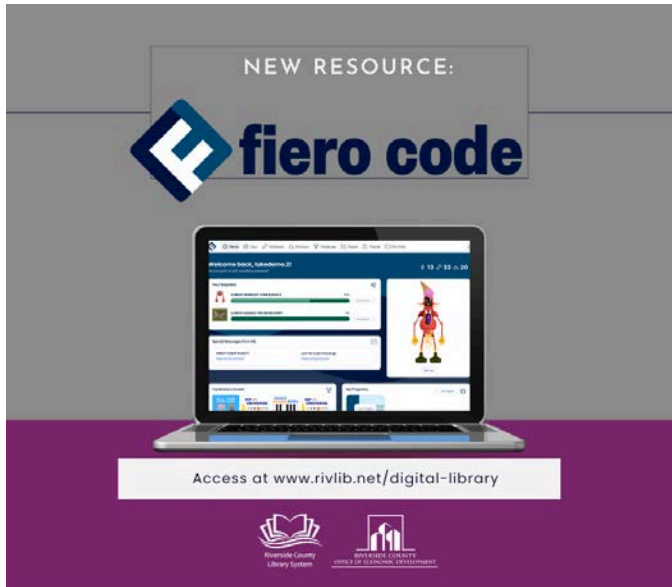
## Riverside County Office of Economic Development

RCLS continues to benefit from strong leadership from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Riverside County Office of Economic Development.

In June, representatives attended to support the Louis Robidoux Library's Summer Reading Program kick-off event. The event featured a live broadcast from 93.5 KDAY-FM and appearances by Elephant & Piggie! International dance demonstrations were performed by Miss Theresa Smith, and crafts, activities, and incentives were distributed by community partners, including the Inland Empire Water Keepers, Healthy Jurupa Valley Reach Out, the Rubidoux Youth Center, and the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District.

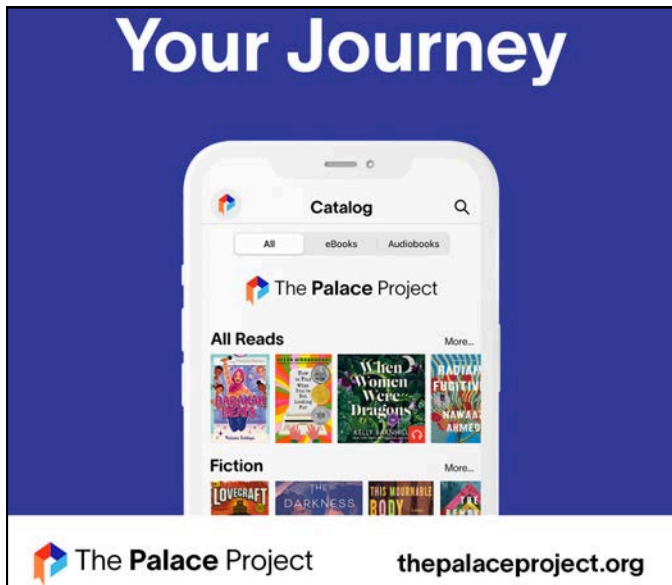
These partnerships bring valuable resources and programming to our community, and we would like to express our gratitude for their continued support.

# Services and Innovation



## Fiero Code

The launch of our new e-learning platform, Fiero Code, has been a remarkable success across RCLS libraries, empowering users to develop essential coding skills in a fun and engaging way. Fiero Code is tailored to accommodate a wide range of skill levels, from complete beginners to more experienced coders, making it accessible for everyone in our community.



## The Palace Project

The Palace Project is an e-reading experience developed by and for libraries. With the Palace app patrons have access to more of the library's ebooks and audiobooks in one place. The app contains thousands of free books from the Palace Bookshelf as well as titles our library has purchased through the Palace Marketplace.

## Hydroponics at the La Quinta Library

The City of La Quinta purchased a Flex Farm Hydroponics System to be utilized by the La Quinta Public Library, becoming the 3rd library in the U.S. to offer this innovative setup. This 5-foot-tall, 3-foot-wide vertical system produces 20-25 pounds of produce every 30 days using 98% less water than traditional farming. Patrons can grow, monitor, and harvest produce year-round, with the potential to yield up to 400 pounds annually. The library plans to establish a Farmer's Market and donate excess produce to local food banks and school culinary programs.



# Multicultural Connection

## Russian Story Hour

The Home Gardens Library's Russian Story Hour offers new immigrants the opportunity to connect with the existing Russian-speaking community through traditional stories, games, and arts and crafts led by Russian-speaking volunteers and library staff.

With the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the program's initial focus has been to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for Russian-speaking families. The challenge of serving both Russian and Ukrainian communities simultaneously was the language barrier, which prevented participants from fully utilizing existing library services. To address this issue and meet the community's needs, we initiated a search for Russian-speaking patrons and community members interested in assisting with programming. Russian-speaking volunteers have helped library staff create inclusive programming by featuring a Ukrainian folktale in a children's theater play, selecting crafts and games for families, donating books by Russian and Ukrainian authors, and locating support resources for adults. As a result, the Story Hour program has become a crucial initial point of contact for families who are often newly arrived in the country.

This well-received program is growing, and positive feedback from attendees has been collected through interviews and surveys. One patron wrote, "We came to the library within the first week we arrived in the U.S. We did not know anybody and did not understand how things work. The library instantly provided us with a place to meet other Russian-speaking families, offered ESL classes, and activities for kids. You are doing an amazing job." The program continues to experience a steady increase in attendance, reaching as many as 60 participants during each Story Hour. Russian Story Hour has also gained recognition from the California Library Association's CLAtalk Monday Mentions: "Home Gardens Library in Riverside County hosts innovative programs to serve immigrant families!" Our goal is to further enhance meaningful library programming through broader collaborations that build and strengthen connections throughout the community.



# Community

## Lunch at the Library

The Riverside County Library System was proud to participate in California State Library's Lunch at the Library, a grant opportunity intended to connect more families with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program all year long. Participating branches connected children, teens, and families with resources to locally-sourced and sustainable food options. Activities included hands-on food and agricultural education such as gardening and cooking along with STEM, coding and financial literacy programs, and visits from notable children's authors. To further connect families with nutritious food and educational resources, Lunch at the Library programming participants each received a set of seven popular, age-appropriate books to start their own home library collection

## Impact

- Increased branch visits growth rate 44% in June/July 2024 versus June/July 2023 (115,280 to 166,319)
- Increased total programs growth rate 39% in June/July 2024 versus June/July 2023(688 to 930)
- Increased programs attendance growth rate 48% in June/July 2024 versus June/July 2023 (18,635 to 27,492)
- Increased circulation growth rate 86% in June/July 2024 versus June/July 2023 (162,796 to 303,465)
- Distributed 20,000 books for families to build home libraries
- Provided \$19,000 in scholarships for LATL teen volunteers to learn career skills and assist during LATL
- Marketing-over 18,000,000 in impressions through radio, digital, billboard, movie theater and interview marketing innovation grant
- Served 14,613 meals to children during the summer
- Grew from 9 branches in 2022 to 13 branches in 2023 to 15 branches in 2024
- Increased families visiting from 414 families to 1020 families as determined by surveys
- Increased grant award letter from \$27,780 in 2022 to \$131,882 in 2023 to \$494,843 in 2024







Riverside County  
Library System

LITERACY SERVICES

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

# ADULT LITERACY STATS

*The purpose of this report is to highlight the Riverside County Library System's Literacy Services end-of-the-year programs and services data between July 1, 2023 to July 30, 2024.*

## Literacy Programs Offered

### Adult Literacy

- One-on-One Tutoring
- Small Group Sessions
  - Citizenship Circles: Citizenship Preparation Class
  - Digital Literacy Lab for Job Seekers
  - English Conversation Clubs
  - English Learners' Book Clubs
  - Write Right: Beginners, Intermediate, and Creative Writing Sessions
- Career Online High School (COHS)
- ESL Digital Learning
  - Burlington English Lab Sessions
  - Virtual ESL Support

### Family Literacy

- Library Connect Take-home Activity Kits
- ReadyRosie Family Workshops
- Family STEAM & Play Workshops
- C.A.R.E. Packages for Building At-Home Libraries

## Learner Information

**117**

We had a total of **27** COHS students, **11** students graduated with a diploma and career certificate. **17** learners returned to our adult literacy program and **73** new learners enrolled.

**80**

Our learners met **80** goals during this year, such as getting a job, accessing community resources, and sharing a book with a family member!

**823**

Families received a total of **823** books and educational materials to build their home learning environments.

## Learning Session Information

**15**

We had **15** different types of learning opportunities. Program offerings above.

**572**

Our learners had a total of **572** learning sessions with their volunteer tutor or literacy staff person.

**1,548**

Our learners spent **1,548** hours learning with their volunteer tutor or literacy staff person.

## Volunteer Information

**48**

We had a total of **48** volunteer tutors conducting either one-on-one or small group sessions.

**399**

Our tutors spent **399** hours preparing for their learning sessions with their learners.

Riverside County Library System's Literacy Services accepts learners and volunteers year round! For more information, please call (951) 685-6901, email [Literacy@rivlib.net](mailto:Literacy@rivlib.net) or visit <https://www.rivlib.net/services/literacy>.

# Grant Funding

**Lunch at the Library Partner Project** | *California Library Association*.....**\$251,512**  
Programming materials at library after school meal sites

**Zip Books** | *California State Library*.....**\$30,508**  
Patron-direct online book purchasing

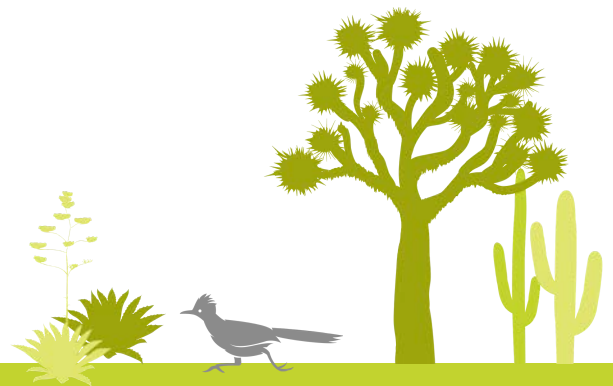
**California Library Literacy Services** | *California State Library*.....**\$91,257**  
English as a Second Language

**California Public Library Meal Programs** | *California State Library*.....**\$494,843**  
Programming materials at library summer meal sites



# RCLS Key Partners

- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors**
- **Riverside County Office of Economic Development**
- **C2 Education**
- **California Baptist University's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences**
- **California Family Life Center**
- **Carols Kitchen**
- **City of Eastvale**
- **City of Jurupa Valley**
- **City of Wildomar**
- **City of La Quinta Arts and Community Services Commission**
- **Child Support Services Riverside County**
- **Coachella Valley Housing Coalition**
- **Consulate of Mexico in San Bernardino**
- **County of Riverside Community Action Partnership**
- **Corona Rotary**
- **Desert Hot Springs Historical Society**
- **Desert Recreation District**
- **Eastvale Chinese American Association**
- **Edward Dean Museum**
- **FIND Food Bank**
- **First 5 Riverside County**
- **French Valley Historical Society**
- **French Valley Rotary**
- **Healthy Jurupa Valley Reach Out**
- **Inland Counties Legal Services**
- **Inlandia Institute**
- **Lake Elsinore Unified School District**
- **Lake Riverside Estates Community Association**
- **Malki Museum**
- **Mead Valley Community Center**
- **MilVet**
- **Mount San Jacinto College**
- **Norco College**
- **Norton Younglove Community Center**
- **Paws of Love**
- **Quality Start Riverside County**
- **REFORMA**
- **Riverside County Department of Veterans Services**
- **Riverside County Department of Waste Resources**



- **Riverside County Law Library**
- **Riverside County Library System Foundation**
- **Riverside County Office of Education**
- **Riverside County Youth Commission**
- **Riverside University Health System**
- **Riverside County Library System Friends Groups:**
  - Friends of the Anza Library
  - Friends of the Cabazon Library
  - Friends of the Cathedral City Library
  - Friends of the Desert Libraries: Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Lake Tamarisk, La Quinta, Mecca, and Thousand Palms
  - Friends of the Idyllwild Library
  - Friends of the Jurupa Libraries: Glen Avon Chapter, Friends of the Jurupa Libraries: Louis Robidoux Chapter
  - Friends of the Lake Elsinore Library
  - Friends of the Nuview Library
  - Friends of the Menifee Library
  - Friends of the Perris Library
  - Friends of the San Jacinto Library
  - Friends of the Sun City Library
  - Friends of the Temecula Grace Mellman Library
  - Friends of the Temecula Public Library
  - Friends of the Wildomar Library
  - Friends of the Woodcrest Library
- **Rotary Club of Jurupa Valley**
- **Schools & School Districts**
  - Corona Norco Unified School District
  - Menifee Union School District
  - Romoland School District
  - Desert Sands Unified School District
  - Jurupa Unified School District
  - Temecula Valley Charter School
  - Rio Vista Elementary School
  - Riverside Unified School District
  - Elsinore Elementary School
  - Johnson Elementary School
  - Nuevo Union School District
- **Southern California Railway Museum**
- **Starbright Academy**
- **TrueCare**
- **UCR ARTS**



***Key Partners Continued in Appendix***

# RCLS Locations



**[rivlib.net](http://rivlib.net)**

Visit us online or in one  
of our locations!

Anza  
Cabazon  
Calimesa  
Canyon Lake  
Cathedral City  
Coachella  
Desert Hot Springs  
Eastvale  
Edward Dean Museum  
El Cerrito  
French Valley  
Glen Avon  
Grace Mellman Community  
Highgrove  
Home Gardens  
Idyllwild  
Indio  
La Quinta  
La Quinta Museum  
Lake Elsinore  
Lake Tamarisk  
Lakeside  
Library Connect Desert Van  
Library Connect West Van  
Louis Robidoux  
Mead Valley  
Mecca  
Menifee  
Norco  
Nuview  
Perris  
San Jacinto  
Sun City  
Temecula Public Library  
Thousand Palms Art Sampson  
Valle Vista  
Wildomar  
Woodcrest

# APPENDIX

## RCLS Key Partners

- ABA Behavioral Therapy
- Art Major Studio
- AYSO
- Aziz Farms
- California State University
- Calimesa Library Commission
- Cathedral City Public Arts Commission
- Cathedral City Parks and Recreation
- Cathedral City Council
- Cathedral City Senior Center
- Cathedral City High School
- City of Calimesa
- City of Desert Hot Springs
- City of La Quinta
- City of Perris
- City of Temecula
- Cofem
- Cole Vocational Services
- Conney Valley Leadership
- COSTCO Commitment to Communities
- Country Village Apartments
- Desert AIDS Project
- DSUSD Early Childhood Education
- DSUSD Nutrition Services
- Inland Empire Legal Services - Lawyers in the Library
- La Chicanita Market & Gas Station
- Lift To Rise
- Mission Springs Water District
- Mujeres Latinas Group
- National Charity League
- Native American Land Conservancy and the Torres-Martinez Cultural Committee
- Palm Springs Actors Guild
- Palm Springs Art Museum
- Perris Oasis Youth Opportunity Center
- Perris Valley Historical Museum
- Perris Valley Women's Club
- Read with Me
- Riverside Legal Aid
- Riverside National Cemetery
- Rotary Club of La Quinta
- SafeHouse of the Desert
- S.C.R.A.P Gallery
- Todec Legal Center
- Veterans Group
- Vision Y Compromiso
- Young Leadership Institute

