

NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

July 27, 2026

State Library Updates

Visit the NJ State Library to Tour the New NJ250 Exhibit This August

You're invited to step into our state's constitutional past by visiting the NJ State Library's new in-person exhibit on **August 5th from 1:30 - 2:30 pm**. Through historical documents, fascinating stories, and little-known facts, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of how New Jersey helped shape the rights and freedoms we know today. The exhibit is currently on display on the Library's 4th floor. [Learn more.](#)



How New Jersey Libraries Can Turn Archives into Engaging Posts

Your library's best social media content might already be sitting in your archives. Our latest marketing blog shares how New Jersey libraries can turn historic photos, newspapers, maps, and local collections into engaging social media posts that inspire nostalgia, spark conversation, and celebrate community pride. [Read the blog](#) and start uncovering stories worth sharing!

News From Around The State

Spread the News that New Jersey Families Can Get \$1,000 per Child Through SimpleFile

The state of New Jersey has just launched SimpleFile.NJ.gov, a website that makes it easy for eligible New Jerseyans to receive a \$1,000 cash benefit per child under 6 years old.

New Jersey needs your help to ensure non-filers can apply for the credit to pay for food, housing, child care, and other essentials. You're invited to join the outreach campaign and help connect more families to the money they're owed. Ready to get started? Become an outreach partner in three simple steps:

1. Join the campaign.

[Sign up to receive a unique referral link](#) for your library to track the impact of your outreach.

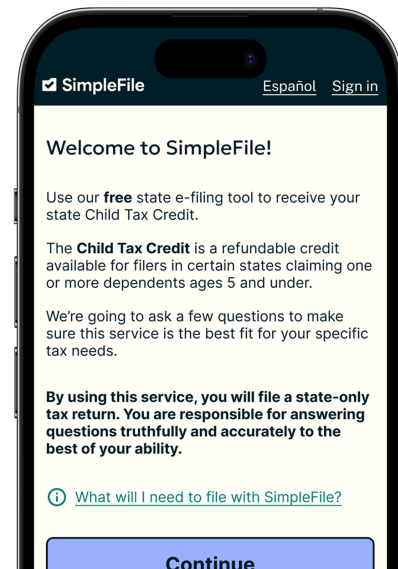
2. Share with the families you serve.

[The SimpleFile Outreach Toolkit](#) is available in 14 languages. Use the materials in whatever ways work best for your library—text messages, emails, websites, newsletters, benefits portals, social media, or printed materials. Research shows that direct outreach, especially text messages, is the most effective way to reach eligible families.

3. Track your impact.

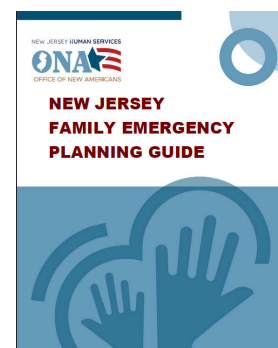
After you receive your referral link, you'll gain access to a partner dashboard where you can see how many families your outreach reached, how many returns were submitted and accepted, and the impact your library is making.

P.S. Want a 6-minute demo of the tool right now? [Go here](#).



The Office of New Americans New Resource: New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide

The Office of New Americans (ONA) is introducing the New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide, a comprehensive resource designed to help families prepare for emergencies. It includes tools and guidance to help families collect important documents, develop care plans, take legal action, and prepare for the possibility of sudden detention. [Click here to download and print The New Jersey Family Emergency Planning Guide](#) in multiple languages to share with the families you serve.



National Opportunities

IMLS Grants

[National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#)

Deadline: November 13, 2026

Program Overview: The National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program (NLG-L) supports projects that develop, enhance, or adapt replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public.



[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#)

Deadline: November 13, 2026

Program Overview: Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian (LB21) projects build a library and archival workforce that can meet the information needs of communities and increase the institutional capacity of libraries, archives, and library and information science graduate programs across the country.

Children's Book Project Grant for Rural Libraries

The Children's Book Project Program Grant from The Pilcrow Foundation helps rural libraries expand their children's collections with new, quality hardcover books. The program provides a 2-to-1 match for libraries that raise \$200–\$400 from local sponsors, allowing them to receive up to \$1,200 in children's books selected from a curated list of hundreds of award-winning titles. Applications are accepted from independent rural public libraries, tribal libraries, and libraries within county, regional, or cooperative systems that serve rural communities and have limited operating budgets. Priority is often given to libraries with smaller budgets and those that are new applicants. [Learn more here.](#) Access the online application form [here](#).



NJSL Presents Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and [all webinars are recorded and posted to our YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also [check out event recaps on our blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up, feel free to share within your communities.

- [The Morale Dilemma: What to do When You Lose Your Desire to Job Search](#) - August 4th @ noon
- [Discovering Immigrant Origins](#) - August 6th @ noon
- [Learn to Cross-Stitch](#) - August 12th @ noon
- [Genealogy Research Stories: The Basse Class](#) - August 13th @ noon



Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and [a list of training programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, [check out our Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [Early Marketing: How to Build Excitement for Your Library's Work](#)
- [Community Influencers: The New Word-of-Mouth](#)
- [How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts](#)
- [How to Turn One Library Program into Multiple Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can [download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners](#).

Connecting people with information through libraries.

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)



NJ250: Living Documents, Evolving Rights - New Jersey Through Three Constitutions
<https://www.njstatelib.org/nj250>

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