

## **“Ready—Or Not”: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project Receives Additional \$1.7 Million**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Andover, MA** - April 23, 2025 – The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) has received an additional \$1.7 million in funding from the California State Library (CSL) to expand the [“Ready—Or Not”: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project](#). Originally funded with \$3.14 million in 2022, this initiative was created to strengthen disaster planning for cultural heritage collections across California.

The Project provides free on-site emergency preparedness assessments to organizations that manage cultural and historic resources. Each assessment results in a comprehensive report with recommendations on mitigating risks, taking emergency preparedness actions, and completing a disaster response plan. These efforts equip institutional staff and volunteers with the information needed to safeguard their collections and ensure the preservation of California’s cultural heritage into the future.

Now in its third year, the project includes a team of six full-time consultants. To date, the team has conducted over 375 assessments, along with online trainings and conference presentations focused on supporting cultural heritage staff as they develop emergency preparedness plans.

With the additional funding, the project will continue its current project activities through May 2026. Four full-time staff members will be added to deliver new services that support emergency planning for cultural heritage organizations, including:

- Assistance in writing or updating disaster plans for participating organizations.
- Access to [dPlan|ArtsReady](#), an online tool for risk assessment and emergency planning.
- Delivery of online classes, training videos, and in-person workshops on emergency response and collections salvage.
- An on-demand course on disaster planning, available for California organizations to access anytime to refresh staff and volunteer knowledge.

Additionally, a new pilot program will offer an "inventory and description" service. This peer-to-peer initiative will help institutional staff or volunteers organize their collections for better emergency response.

Since its launch, the “Ready—Or Not” Project has assisted a range of cultural heritage organizations, including archives, museums, libraries, historical societies, tribal nations, public art institutions, cultural centers, historic parks, university cultural departments, outdoor art installations, wildlife associations, botanical gardens, and dioceses. California-based organizations can request free emergency preparedness services via an [online form](#), emailing [CAready@nedcc.org](mailto:CAready@nedcc.org), or by calling 855-501-3020.

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### **About NEDCC**

Founded in 1973, the nonprofit Northeast Document Conservation Center serves museums, libraries, archives, and individuals nationwide. NEDCC provides conservation treatment for book and paper collections as well as digital imaging, audio preservation, assessments, consultations, training, and disaster assistance. To learn more, visit [nedcc.org](http://nedcc.org).

### **About the State Library**

Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. The State Library also serves California’s local libraries, providing state and federal funds to support public libraries and deliver statewide programs and services. [State Library Website](#)