# Audio Transcript

What are Second Responders?

You’ve heard of first responders. They’re the people who arrive first on the scene in an emergency. That includes police, fire, and emergency medical personnel.

A second responder is someone who supports these first responders. Second responders help people get back to normal quickly. Their support helps people get back to work, school, and other activities.

Let’s connect that idea of second responders to libraries. Why should libraries be considered second responders?

First, you’re already a trusted local partner. Libraries are embedded in communities, working with a range of people and organizations.

Second, libraries are connectors. You connect people with services and resources. Libraries also connect people from varying parts of communities to each other.

Third, libraries are a community information resource. During challenging times, communities can rely on their local library to share critical information.

Finally, libraries are safe spaces. Libraries are committed to access, equity, and inclusion in meeting the needs of the whole person.

To learn how your library can more effectively serve the community as a second responder, check out the Libraries As Second Responders Training Series. This series is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through this training, you’ll develop knowledge and skills to support BIPOC and other vulnerable members of the community who were disproportionately affected by COVID and other crises.

Please visit [www.califa.org/lasr](http://www.califa.org/lasr) for more information about the grant and upcoming trainings. When libraries serve as second responders, you become part of a critical network connecting communities with resources and each other to strengthen viability, continuity, and recovery following a crisis.