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Memorandum

Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: ASHLEY APPEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: MARCH 18, 2025
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

C. Memo- Library Director Berry, The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

-Supporting Attachments



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

Item Type: Information memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Mar. 17, 2025
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through:

On March 14, President Trump issued an executive order that severely impacts the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which supports library operations nationwide by distributing grants to states. In FY 2025, Alaska received \$1.27 million, which flowed to consortia and individual libraries.

If IMLS funding disappears completely, numerous statewide projects will feel the effects.

- **Interlibrary loan service** will be curtailed.
- **Public programs** will vanish, including Alaska Reads, Battle of the Books and the statewide summer reading program.
- **Services to specific patron groups** will be eliminated, particularly for blind patrons and those living in the bush.
- **The Alaska Digital Library** (aka Libby or OverDrive) will see major reductions in new materials.
- **The SLED databases** will cancel all commercial offerings, effective in December.

On a local level, we've used past IMLS grants for installing outdoor Wi-Fi and upgrading the interior network, purchasing hotspots, setting up the little free libraries in City parks, training staff and buying some materials.

Recommendation:

For discussion.

LAB

Mar. 17, 2025

Attachments:

Executive Order re: Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy

ALA Statement on White House Assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services

EveryLibrary Institute's Guide to Understanding IMLS's "Shall" and "May" Language

Information Sheet on the IMLS

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Funding to Alaska



imls.gov

- An independent agency established in 1996 that is the main source of federal support for libraries and museums within the U.S., having the mission to “advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.”
- President Trump issued an executive order on Friday, March 14, to eliminate IMLS "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law", along with several other agencies.
- U.S. federal agencies exist outside the federal executive departments (those headed by a Cabinet secretary) and the Executive Office of the President. In a narrower sense, the term refers only to those independent agencies that, while considered part of the executive branch, have regulatory or rulemaking authority and are insulated from presidential control, usually because the president's power to dismiss the agency head or a member is limited.
- Established through separate statutes passed by Congress, each respective statutory grant of authority defines the goals the agency must work towards, as well as what substantive areas, if any, over which it may have the power of rulemaking. These agency rules (or regulations), when in force, have the power of federal law.
- IMLS and the director are advised by the National Museum and Library Services Board, a 24-member advisory body that includes the IMLS director, the deputy director for the Office of Library Services, the deputy director for the Office of Museum Services, the general counsel, and 20 presidentially appointed individuals.
- IMLS was established by the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) on September 30, 1996, as a result of the Museum and Library Services Act and the reauthorization and extension of that act in 2003, 2010, and 2018. Its basic function has existed under various names and organizational structures since 1937.
- IMLS receives its funding through the annual appropriations process. It is one of several independent agencies whose spending limits each year are established in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.
- The FY 2025 IMLS budget request, submitted to Congress in March 2024, is \$280,000,000, including \$271,900,000 for programs and administrative costs authorized by the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA), which includes the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Museum Services Act (MSA); \$4,200,000 for a grants program authorized by the African American History and Culture Act (AAHCA); and \$3,900,000 for a grants program authorized by the National Museum of the American Latino Act (NMALA).

- Bill Clinton signed the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) on October 1, 1996. LSTA is a United States federal library grant program. Its roots come from the Library Services Act, first enacted in 1956. LSTA replaced the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), first enacted in 1962.
- Alaska Congressman Don Young consistently demonstrated his support for America's libraries, most notably as a lead sponsor of reauthorizations of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). He championed legislation supporting libraries, including the Build America's Libraries Act (2021), the Library Stabilization Fund Act (2020) and the Museum and Library Services Act (2018).
- In the past three years, Alaska has received more than \$3.6 million in LSAT allotments, most recently \$1,276,792 in 2024. Funds support various grant programs around the state and in Homer, including Interlibrary Cooperation grants, Continuing Education grants and the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) databases that connect Alaskans to nearly 60 databases for homework help, lifelong learning and small business development.
- In Alaska, the Alaska State Library administers the LSTA funds with assistance of the Governor's Advisory Council in Libraries (GAC). This board advises the State Library on the development of the Library Services and Technology Act Alaska State Plan and on the development of specific programs. Federal funds are used to support regional services grants, the 800#/ILL backup grant, interlibrary cooperation grants, and continuing education grants.
- Alaska's plan for LSTA funds for the most recent five-year period, 2023-2027 is available from the Alaska State Library. It focuses on three goals – Goal 1: Alaska libraries will support lifelong learning opportunities for all Alaskans; Goal 2: Alaska libraries will provide access to content and materials in various formats for all Alaskans; Goal 3: Alaska libraries will explore evolving roles as anchor institutions that benefit and engage their communities.

To dismiss the mission of an agency that advances opportunity and learning is to dismiss the aspirations and everyday needs of millions of Americans. And those who will feel that loss most keenly live in rural communities.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | MARCH 15, 2025

ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services



WASHINGTON – An [executive order](#) issued by the Trump administration on Friday night, March 14, [calls for](#) the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nation’s only federal agency for America’s libraries. The following statement was made by the American Library Association:

Americans have loved and relied on public, school and academic libraries for generations. By eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services,

the Trump administration's executive order is cutting off at the knees the most beloved and trusted of American institutions and the staff and services they offer:

- Early literacy development and grade-level reading programs
- Summer reading programs for kids
- High-speed internet access
- Employment assistance for job seekers
- Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments
- Homework and research resources for students and faculty
- Veterans' telehealth spaces equipped with technology and staff support
- STEM programs, simulation equipment and training for workforce development
- Small business support for budding entrepreneurs

To dismiss some 75 committed workers and mission of an agency that advances opportunity and learning is to dismiss the aspirations and everyday needs of millions of Americans. And those who will feel that loss most keenly live in rural communities.

As seedbeds of literacy and innovation, our nation's 125,000 public, school, academic and special libraries deserve more, not less support. Libraries of all types translate 0.003% of the federal budget into programs and services used in more than 1.2 billion in-person patron visits every year, and many more virtual visits.

ALA implores President Trump to reconsider this short-sighted decision. We encourage U.S. Congressmembers, Senators and decision makers at every level of government to visit the libraries that serve their constituents and urge the White House to spare the modest federal funding for America's libraries. And we call on all Americans who value reading, learning, and enrichment to reach out to their elected leaders and [Show Up For Our Libraries](#) at library and school meetings, town halls, and everywhere decisions are made about libraries.

###

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is an independent federal agency that supports libraries and museums in all 50 states and U.S. territories through grantmaking, research and policy development. IMLS administers both federal grants to

states, which determine how funds are spent, and discretionary grants to individual library entities.

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Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Funding to Alaska

Alaska

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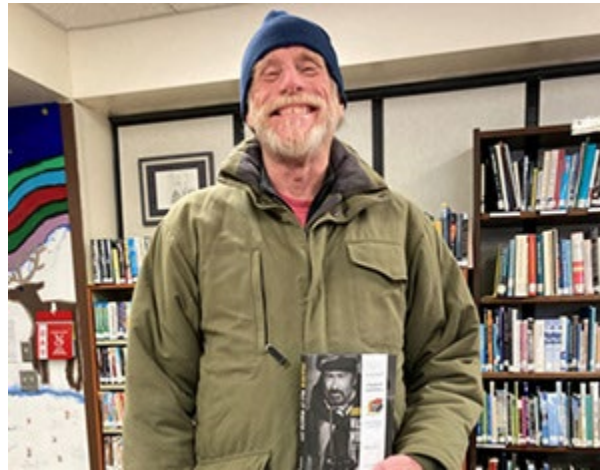
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Link

[Alaska State Library](#)

Alaska State Library

Project Examples



800# Interlibrary Loan & Reference Backup Service

The Alaska State Library, in partnership with the Anchorage Public Library, provided interlibrary loans and backup reference services free to libraries across the state, including rural, public, school, and tribal libraries. Many of these libraries cannot afford the proprietary software needed to obtain materials outside of their own collections, and the [800# Service](#) allows them to access materials and assistance they would not be able to get otherwise. A large number of the Alaska libraries that utilized this service are staffed with volunteers, so this reference service provided access to more complex questions regarding library materials and general information to help with their patrons' needs.

IMLS Funds: \$57,974



Virtual Tours

The Alaska State Library, Archive and Museum provided CARES Act stimulus funds to the University of Alaska's Museum of the North to offer virtual tours of the Museum and their special exhibits when the state was locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The modest amount of funds, which went mostly toward the acquisition and use of 360-degree cameras, made the Museum's unique collections accessible to Alaska and the world. Among other items, the cameras captured videos related to Bus 142, from the book and movie Into the Wild, which are now accessible to a wider audience as a result of these funds. IMLS Funds: \$1,350

Continuing Education Grants

Alaska is one of few states without an accredited graduate library school, and many Alaska librarians work in isolation with limited access to library management training. These professionals need to be exposed to new ideas and emerging trends in library service for patrons of all types. To support this need, the Alaska State Library regularly allocates funds to each library outlet so staff can pursue in-person and virtual training opportunities. Alaskan library patrons are extremely diverse, with many Alaska Native patrons in the rural communities and many English as a Second Language patrons in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. They have come to rely on libraries for a broad range of technology and information resources, in addition to other traditional library services. IMLS Funds: \$1,366.50

Review recent Grants to States projects from this state library in the [State Program Report database](#).

Search the [Awarded Grants Database](#) for additional details about awards in this state or view the [State Details Dashboard](#).

Five-Year Plan Highlights

Goal 1: Alaska libraries will support lifelong learning opportunities for all Alaskans.

- Projects include:
 - Talking Book Services
 - Cultural and historical programs for and about Alaska Natives and Alaska Native culture
 - Needs assessments related to people from various cultures and non-English speaking groups
 - Statewide or individual summer reading programs

- Early childhood resources and related training
- Author visits and cultural programming
- Afterschool programs
- Literacy programs such as basic, early, civic, financial, health, and legal
- Health and wellness programs
- Reference and interlibrary loan services
- Books-by-mail or appropriate alternatives for Alaskans living in areas without public libraries
- Needs assessments and pilot services in communities without public libraries, including collaboration with school and tribal libraries
- Training and consulting services for library staff
- Professional learning opportunities for the library workforce
- Scholarships for professional certification or advanced degrees
- Grants for library staff to attend state, regional, and national conferences

Goal 2: Alaska libraries will provide access to content and materials in various formats for all Alaskans.

- Projects include:
 - Cataloged access to materials
 - Assessment of local collections for inclusion in databases and catalogs
 - SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway), Alaska's statewide library database
 - E-content and other emerging options for delivering library materials
 - Collection development mini-grant program
 - Collaboration with statewide consortia to expand access to electronic resources and services
 - Provision of materials in Alaska Native languages
 - Creation/digitization of resources that document Alaska's history and peoples
 - Preservation of unique library materials about Alaska
 - Library pilot projects that support Alaskans in publishing original creative works
 - Hardware and software to support access to electronic resources
 - Pilot projects to create Library of Things collections, such as tools, sporting goods, and household items
 - STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) projects
 - Strategies for affordable bandwidth to meet local needs

- Collaboration with telecommunication providers and other agencies to expand internet access

Goal 3: Alaska libraries will explore evolving roles as anchor institutions that benefit and engage their communities.

- Projects include:
 - Business development services
 - Support for community sustainability activities, such as community gardens, farmers markets, or seed libraries
 - Workforce development services
 - Serve as an access point for electronic forms and online services offered by local, state, and federal government
 - Civic engagement events to discuss issues of public concern
 - Access to legal information and services
 - Space planning and design
 - Resources for people who are homeless and/or who have mental health conditions
 - Computers, software, and equipment for digital media use
 - Libraries as disaster response centers
 - Community needs planning for times of crisis
 - Support for the Alaska Library Network and other entities that coordinate cooperative library services and programs
 - Strategic planning assistance for libraries

IMLS Data Collection

State Library Administrative Agency Survey

The State Library Administrative Agency Survey (SLAA) provides descriptive data about state library agencies for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. To interact with the latest data, please visit the [SLAA Survey Comparison Tool](#).

Public Libraries Survey

The Public Libraries Survey (PLS) provides national descriptive data on the status of public libraries in the United States and its territories. [Explore state profiles](#) representing more than 9,000 public library systems and over 17,000 public library outlets.

- Allotments

Year	Allotment Value
2020	\$1,073,876.00
2021	\$1,110,387.00
2022	\$1,108,522.00
2023	\$1,280,152.00
2024	\$1,276,792.00

Understanding IMLS's “Shall” and “May” Language

MARCH 15, 2025

The Trump Administration has issued an executive order directing several small federal agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to review their operations and obligations under law with the intent to cut budgets and staffing.

The Executive Order dated [March 14, 2025](#), directs agency heads to reduce “elements of the Federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary ... This includes the non-statutory components and functions of the following governmental entities shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law.”

The Executive Order goes on to give agency heads seven days to “submit a report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget confirming full compliance with this order and explaining which components or functions of the governmental entity, *if any*, are statutorily required and to what extent” (emphasis added). The [2018 Museum and Library Services Act](#) (MLSA) enumerates which programs are “shall” programs and duties, meaning that they are mandated by Congress, and which programs are “may” programs, meaning that they are discretionary for IMLS. [Understanding](#) which programs fall under which “functions and obligations” sections of the Executive Order is important for our sector.

In our opinion, all current-year and multi-year contracts, grants, awards, and agreements authorized and appropriated by Congress within the federal budget are statutory obligations of the IMLS and must not be disrupted or discontinued. Payments must continue to be made to recipients, subject to appropriation.

"Shall" Programs and Duties (Mandatory for IMLS)

1. Grants to States for Library Services (§9141)

- At least 96% of federal funds allocated to state library agencies must be used for:
 - Expanding library services and access to information resources.

- Establishing and improving linkages between libraries and other entities.
- Providing training and professional development for library staff.
- Recruiting diverse professionals into the field.
- Developing partnerships with public and private entities.
- Targeting underserved communities and individuals with disabilities.
- Ensuring equitable access to information through collaborative networks.

2. State Plan Requirements for Library Grants (§9134)

- States must submit a five-year plan outlining:
 - Their goals and priorities for library services.
 - How they will use federal funds.
 - How they will evaluate program success.
 - Compliance with internet safety requirements for public and school libraries receiving funds.

3. Native American Library Services (§9161)

4. National Leadership Grants Program (§9162)

5. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Administration

- Establish and maintain the IMLS within the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities. (§9102)
- Appoint a director who is responsible for developing and implementing policies to support museum, library, and information services and ensure coordination with other federal agencies and offices with similar responsibilities. (§9103)
- Set administrative funds allocation. (§9111)

6. Policy Research, Data Collection, and Dissemination (§9108)

7. Grants and Contracts

- The IMLS has statutory obligations regarding payment of current-year and multi-year contracts, grants, awards, and agreements to recipients that are authorized and appropriated by Congress within the annual federal budget (or a Continuing Resolution).
 - Section 9133(a) states that the Director shall pay each State library administrative agency its grant funds subject to appropriations provided pursuant to Section 9123.
 - Section 9176 authorizes appropriations for museum services but explicitly states that funds remain available for obligation until expended.

"May" Programs (Discretionary for IMLS)

1. Awards and Medals (§9107)

2. Museum Services Activities (§9173)

- IMLS may provide funding for:
 - Museum education and access to collections.
 - Partnerships between museums and schools.
 - Preservation and conservation of museum collections.
 - Disaster preparedness and emergency planning.
 - Museum research and digital engagement initiatives.

3. Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (§9165)

- IMLS may fund initiatives for:
 - Recruiting and training new librarians.
 - Supporting diversity in the library workforce.
 - Enhancing graduate-level education for library professionals.

4. 21st Century Museum Professional Program (§9175)

- IMLS may provide funding for:
 - Workforce development for museum professionals.
 - Training and mentorship programs.
 - Research and evaluation of museum education initiatives.
- 5. Other Programs include **Technical Assistance for Museums and Libraries** (§9108(e)), **Public-Private Partnerships** (§9141(4), §9173(13)), and **Support for Digital Literacy and Emerging Technologies** (§9121, §9162).

As the libraries, archives, and museums sector grapples with this new Executive Order, it is important to recognize that several long-standing and useful programs that benefit the American people through their state libraries, public, school, and academic libraries, and museums are, in fact, discretionary. If our sector wants to continue to see a comprehensive ecosystem of support for libraries, archives, and museums, [we need to come together and advocate](#) for the preservation of all of IMLS's functions and obligations.

CONTINUING THE REDUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

The White House
March 14, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. This order continues the reduction in the elements of the Federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary.

Sec. 2. Reducing the Scope of the Federal Bureaucracy.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the non-statutory components and functions of the following governmental entities shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law:

- (i) the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service;
 - (ii) the United States Agency for Global Media;
 - (iii) the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the Smithsonian Institution;
 - (iv) the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
 - (v) the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness;
 - (vi) the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund;
- and
- (vii) the Minority Business Development Agency.

(b) Within 7 days of the date of this order, the head of each governmental entity listed in subsection (a) of this section shall submit a report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget confirming full compliance with this order and explaining

which components or functions of the governmental entity, if any, are statutorily required and to what extent.

(c) In reviewing budget requests submitted by the governmental entities listed in subsection (a) of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or the head of any executive department or agency charged with reviewing grant requests by such entities shall, to the extent consistent with applicable law and except insofar as necessary to effectuate an expected termination, reject funding requests for such governmental entities to the extent they are inconsistent with this order.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 14, 2025.