



SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2020, we urge Congress to provide full funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$232 million for the administration of the Library Services and Technology Act. *The IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

The IMLS’ funding has not yet recovered from sequestration, though it has benefitted from modest funding increases in recent years. In 2018, Congress passed the Museum and Library Services Act to reauthorize the IMLS until Fiscal Year 2025 and authorized increased funding for both museum and library services.

IMLS Annual Appropriations, FY 2010 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Museum Services	\$35.2	\$31.6	\$29.5	\$27.9	\$28.7	\$30.1	\$31.2	\$31.7	\$34.7	\$34.7
Library Services	\$213.5	\$189	\$184.7	\$175	\$180.9	\$180.9	\$182.7	\$183.5	\$189.3	\$189.3

ABOUT IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The mission of the IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants to museums that support educating students, preserving collections, coordinating resources, and digitizing collections. The IMLS also administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which consolidates federal library programs while expanding services for learning and access to information resources.

IMLS SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- Museums support more than 726,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion to the U.S. economy per year.
- Museums are an essential part of the nation’s educational infrastructure, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education and lifelong learning.
- One in six adults (or about 36 million) in the U.S. have low literacy skills—libraries provide learning opportunities for adults who are no longer part of the K–12 educational system, including adults who face economic and other challenges.
- Libraries and museums build the civic strength of their communities and provide opportunities for public engagement.
- IMLS grants are awarded in every state and congressional district, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly-rated grant applications it receives.