



March 26, 2025

On behalf of the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA), the Executive Board writes in support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in response to the Executive Order stating that IMLS must be reduced to its "statutory functions" and "non-statutory components and functions ...shall be eliminated to the maximum extent...".

IMLS provides crucial funding to New Mexico's libraries through grants received from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This funding is essential for New Mexico libraries in bridging the digital divide, supporting education and workforce development, preserving cultural heritage, and strengthening communities.

New Mexico State Library receives about \$1.8M annually from LSTA. Grants to States funds the following programs:

- **Rural Services (Bookmobiles, Books by Mail, Delivery to Public Libraries):** 56% of LSTA funding
- **EI Portal Online Databases:** 31% of LSTA funding
 - Includes accessing job training programs, career resources, adult continuing education, and small business support, test preparation.
- **Library for the Blind and Print Disabled:** 4% of LSTA funding
- **Interlibrary Loan:** 3% of LSTA funding
- **Summer Reading Programming:** 1% of LSTA Funding

IMLS has also been a consistent and crucial source of funding for tribal communities in New Mexico through its Native American Library Services Grants. Since 2011, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, and the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambé, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni have all benefited from financial support aimed at improving library services within their communities. This funding continues to be available, with the Pueblos of Nambé, Santa Clara, Tesuque, Pojoaque, Isleta, San Felipe, and Ohkay Owingeh receiving IMLS Native American Library Services Grants in 2024.

Additionally, IMLS supports essential services such as:

- Expanding broadband access
- Delivering early literacy initiatives
- Providing STEM education, online learning tools, and after-school programs, tutoring, and test prep in public libraries and K-12 schools
- Preserving local history, languages, and traditions in New Mexico's tribal and cultural institutions
- Digitizing historical archives to make New Mexico's rich cultural heritage accessible to future generations

Libraries have long served as community hubs for accessing information, engaging in civic activities, and supporting lifelong learning. Federal funding for IMLS leverages state and local investments, multiplying the impact of library programs. Every dollar invested in libraries generates economic benefits by improving education, job readiness, and community engagement.

NMLA urges Congress to continue IMLS and grant programs through LSTA to ensure that libraries in New Mexico and nationwide can maintain and expand their services. Preserving IMLS means protecting access to information, education, and opportunities for all New Mexicans.

The links below can be used to contact your state legislators and members of congress

https://www.nmlegis.gov/members/find_my_legislator

<https://www.everylibrary.org/statementimls2025>