



Support the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Objective:

We urge Congress to maintain or increase funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and to reject President Trump’s efforts to eliminate this crucial agency.

Background:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal agency created in 1996, is the primary source of federal funding for museums and libraries. Through grants, research, and policymaking, it pursues a mission “to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement.”¹ IMLS has lost significant funding in recent years, and for FY2018 President Trump proposed elimination of the agency, with only minimal funding to ensure an orderly closure. While NCH and other groups successfully advocated to maintain funding for FY18, the IMLS is under threat once again in FY19.

IMLS Funding History, FY10 – Present (in millions of dollars)

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19*
282	237	232	220	227	228	230	231	240	23

*President’s budget request. Final appropriations for FY19 have not been determined.

Why it matters:

- There are approximately 120,000 libraries and 35,000 museums in the United States, visited by hundreds of millions of Americans each year, that rely on IMLS funding.
- Museums and libraries form an essential part of our educational infrastructure for Americans of all ages.
- Museums support the economy – they directly contribute \$21 billion to the economy every year, employ over 400,000 Americans, and bring tourism dollars to communities across the country.
- At current funding levels, the IMLS is only able to fund a small fraction of the high-quality grant applications it receives.

IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

¹ <https://www.imls.gov/about-us>