

Dear Delaware Library Community,

We are writing because we are concerned about the future and continued health of Delaware libraries.

On March 14, 2025, the President issued the "Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy" Executive Order. The order states that the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) must be reduced to its "statutory functions," which refer to the activities and responsibilities legally mandated by its founding legislation. It also requires that "non-statutory components and functions"—which are additional activities and services not explicitly required by law—shall be eliminated to the maximum extent." Currently, the agency is trying to define these two key functions.

Although IMLS represents only 0.003% of the federal budget, it has a significant impact on libraries and museums nationally. Its mission is to advance and empower U.S. libraries and museums through grants, research, and policy. The Grants to States program provides critical federal funding for our own state library agency, the Division of Libraries. Funding early literacy programs, library catalogs and our inter-library loan program, access to eMaterials, professional development, digital literacy initiatives, and innovative programming, IMLS grants are essential to Delaware communities.

Here in Delaware, IMLS has helped fund:

- Delaware Communities of Excellence: The Delaware Literacy Alliance, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, digital training for adults, and eBooks for students.
- Delaware Library Consortium: Seamless statewide access to physical and digital collections, a shared library card and calendar, and statewide interlibrary delivery service.
- Social Infrastructure and Innovation: Essential needs assistance, teleservices support, technology access.

These initiatives are not optional. They are vital.

What's at stake?

- Loss of core funding for statewide services; tech infrastructure, interlibrary loans, and staff development.
- Literacy programs for children, including early learning, grade-level reading, and summer reading.
- High-speed internet, homework help, and research tools.
- Job search assistance, workforce training, and STEM skill development.
- Telehealth access and support.
- Accessible resources like Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments.

We will not let IMLS be dismantled quietly. The Delaware Library Association is actively engaging with federal lawmakers, and we urge every Delawarean who values their library to join us.

What you can do:

- [Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative.](#) We believe that all current contracts, grants, awards, and agreements are statutorily obliged by Congress and should continue to be paid without disruption or delay. Urge them to protect IMLS funding and programs.
- [Visit, call, or write your local officials.](#) Encourage them to stand with libraries.
- Share your story. Tell us—and your elected leaders—how libraries have made a difference in your life.

Libraries are more than buildings. They are lifelines, launchpads, student centers, and community anchors. The proposed changes threaten the future of services we all depend on—and it's up to us to speak up.

Thank you for standing with us.

In Solidarity,
Delaware Library Association

dla.lib.de.us

[ALA Statement](#)

[FAQ: Executive Order Targeting IMLS](#)