



SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2019, we urge Congress to support funding for the Institute of Museum & Library Services. This request includes full funding for the Office of Museum Services, which is authorized at \$38.6 million, and \$182.7 million for library programs through 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. For FY 2018, the House bill provided level funding of \$231 million and the Senate bill provided a \$4 million increase. The House bill was passed by the full House, while the Senate bill only passed out of committee. The IMLS is currently funded by the Continuing Resolution (CR) at FY 2017 levels.

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

Table with 10 columns (FY 2010 to FY 2018) and 2 rows (Museum Services, Library Services) showing funding amounts in millions of dollars.

BACKGROUND

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. In addition to grant making, the IMLS provides critical leadership to the museum and library communities through support for research and policy development. 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 jobs and the economy. They spend \$21 billion annually, employ more than 400,000 Americans, and spur tourism from around the world.
■ Museums are an essential part of the nation's educational infrastructure, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education and promoting 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.
■ The most recent reauthorization—unanimously passed by Congress—called for an increase in federal support, both to strengthen existing national programs at the IMLS and to support museums directly at the state level.