

Indiana Library Federation Statement to the Library Community Regarding the Defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) by the executive order dated [March 14, 2025](#)

The Indiana Library Federation opposes the proposed defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as it represents a devastating blow to libraries across the nation, including those here in Indiana. IMLS funding is not merely a line item in a budget; it is a lifeline that sustains essential services and resources vital to Hoosiers of all ages. This comes at a time when literacy programming is already being cut at the state level.

In Indiana, IMLS funding directly supports critical infrastructure and programs that benefit every resident.

STATEWIDE RESOURCE SHARING:

- **INSPIRE:** A statewide collection of databases providing access to invaluable research materials to students and the general public. These databases are essential for Indiana's institutions of higher learning and workforce development.
- **Evergreen Indiana:** A collaboration of Indiana libraries that empowers materials sharing especially in rural areas, and provides efficient technology services including a shared catalog system, and access to collections that facilitates interlibrary loan.
- **Info Express:** A vital courier service that facilitates the rapid and cost-effective transportation of interlibrary loan materials across the state, ensuring equitable access for all Hoosiers.
- **WorldCat:** A global cataloging database that enables libraries to share resources, improving efficiency and access to information.
- **Indiana Digital Library:** A statewide digital library providing ebooks for Indiana libraries via the Libby App.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

- **Books and Materials for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and People with Print Disabilities:** Funding that ensures individuals with visual impairments and print disabilities have access to accessible reading materials and resources.
- **Indiana History Digitization:** Preserving Hoosier history including Indiana Memory and Hoosier Chronicles.
- **Office of Professional Development:** Provides training for Hoosier library directors and staff in order to provide high quality library services throughout the state. Library Board of Trustees are trained to ensure accountability over budgets and services.

Libraries are places where all Hoosiers are welcome, where anyone can access the information and resources they need to thrive. The executive order calling for the elimination of IMLS funding would decimate essential services, limiting access to information, educational resources, and community support for countless Hoosiers. This defunding would disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including students, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those in rural areas.

We, the library community, cannot stand idly by while these vital resources are threatened. We must act now to protect the future of libraries and the communities they serve.

Call to Action:

The Indiana Library Federation urges all library supporters—patrons, staff, volunteers, and community members—to take immediate action. Contact your Indiana Senators and Representatives to express your strong opposition to the defunding of the IMLS.

Please contact:

- Senator Todd Young - [Online Form](#) <https://www.young.senate.gov/contact/email-todd/> (317) 226-6700 or (202) 224-5623
- Senator Jim Banks - [Online Form](#) <https://www.banks.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/> (260) 321-7130 or (202) 224-4814
- [Your Representative in the US House of Representatives](#) <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>