



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Michigan library community and library supporters,

Recently, the White House released its proposed budget outlining major cuts and the complete elimination of programs supporting library services. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has been identified as an agency the administration has targeted for elimination. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by IMLS, provides critically important funding for our nation's libraries. LSTA's Grants to States is the largest grant program run by IMLS. These appropriations are distributed directly to each state and territory through a population-based formula. Each state can identify the most appropriate use of these funds for library services and activities to meet their state's diverse needs. The return on investment for this program is substantial and is enhanced by each state's matching contributions. Many of the innovations taking place in America's libraries today are a direct result of this program and the funding it provides.

As you know, total elimination of IMLS as proposed in the President's budget would have a devastating impact on library service across Michigan. The Library of Michigan directed LSTA funds touch every community across the state. For instance, LSTA funds pay for all costs associated with MeLCat the statewide resource sharing program providing nearly one million loans to library patrons per year as well as the majority of the Michigan eLibrary's (MeL) 40 databases and eBook content. Both programs have become irreplaceable for libraries and schools of all types and sizes. Other cuts would include:

- Public libraries would not receive summer reading materials that provide programming assistance for children's literacy.
- Library related data collected by the Library of Michigan availability would be minimal.
- Consulting and support for public libraries to file for e-rate would be curtailed or end.
- State Library support for WebJunction library staff training would end.
- Grants to support innovative initiatives in areas would no longer exist and possible new sub-grant programs would not be created.
- Leadership programs such as the Harwood community innovator program would be eliminated.
- Providing future funds to support a Michigan service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and increase the number of digital records from Michigan libraries, archives and historical societies added to DPLA would be significantly reduced or terminated.
- Support for Ploud technology for small and rural libraries would be curtailed or eliminated.
- Materials and training supporting the early literacy efforts with Every Child Ready to Read would cease.

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- The statewide membership to United for Libraries providing resources and training for library trustees would be canceled.
- Sponsorship funds for continuing education to support events provided by MLA, FOML, MCLS and MI-ALA would be eliminated.
- Continuing education events such as the Rural and Small Libraries Conference and others would end or be dramatically curtailed.
- Funds to support the Michigan Activity Pass would be eliminated.
- The Michigan Reads! program targeting emerging readers statewide would need to be curtailed or eliminated.

The loss of federal funds also could create a loss of incentive for state appropriations, as our federal allocation depends upon a maintenance of effort in state appropriations.

Each year the Library of Michigan receives approximately \$4.3 million of LSTA funds from IMLS. If these LSTA dollars no longer were available in Michigan, the negative impact would be far-reaching. Attached to this letter is the “Overview of LSTA Funds in Michigan” document that spells out in more detail how LSTA funds are used in Michigan. If you would like information about how LSTA grant funding has impacted your library in recent years, please contact Shannon White ([whites29@michigan.gov](mailto:whites29@michigan.gov)) or Karren Reish ([reishk@michigan.gov](mailto:reishk@michigan.gov)) at the Library of Michigan.

As a federal government agency, IMLS cannot engage in any form of advocacy. However, as the budget moves through the legislative process, they will continue to actively educate about the important role of IMLS and LSTA in serving our nation’s communities. I encourage you to sign up through the [ALA Action Center](#) to receive advocacy alerts, background information, and talking points about this important issue. Ongoing funding and policy updates from the ALA Washington Office also are available at the [District Dispatch](#) blog.

Sincerely,

Randy Riley  
State Librarian