



CHIEF OFFICERS OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COSLA Requests Clarification from IMLS Acting Director Keith Sonderling

Lexington, KY, April 8, 2025

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) issued today the following correspondence to Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Keith Sonderling.

“On behalf of the Board and membership of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies – COSLA, we respectfully request a meeting to discuss immediate concerns regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

As you are of course aware, on April 2, California, Connecticut, and Washington each received cancellation notices for their fiscal year 2024 Grants to States awards. The notifications did not include any details for the impetus for the cancellation, leaving the state library community forced to engage in speculation. Uncertainty about the stability of the Grants to States program certainly doesn’t help in advancing IMLS’s stated goals.

The Board of COSLA would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to receive any further information you are able to provide, to help us better understand current directions and future plans for the agency.”

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About COSLA

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), an independent organization of the principal library officials in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories, responsible for statewide library development. Its purpose is to nurture state library administrative agencies, and lead with a collective voice for the nation’s libraries. cosla.org