

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

APRIL 2017

The mission of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is to enable and inspire libraries and museums to promote broad public access to lifelong learning, innovation, and cultural and civic participation. There are currently 123,000 libraries in the United States and 169 million people in this country over the age of 14 who are library users. IMLS supports innovative projects, promotes cost-saving collaborations, and encourages the use of technology at our nation's libraries and museums.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) opposes President Trump's proposal to eliminate funding for IMLS in his Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Blueprint. AALL urges Congress to support the full funding request of IMLS because:

- **IMLS grant programs support library services in every state.** IMLS uses a population-based formula grant to support libraries in all 50 states. Hundreds of library users and education and technology professionals are engaged in a rigorous peer review process designed to find and fund well-designed projects. Law libraries are recipients of IMLS grants, which make it possible for law libraries to engage in innovative projects that enhance access to information, such as the digitization of rare and other materials. By way of example, the S.J. Quinney Law Library at the University of Utah received a grant in 2014 to digitize Utah Supreme Court briefs.
- **IMLS helps museums and libraries share resources.** IMLS has helped to fund state and regional Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hubs. The national digital platform helps museums and libraries share material resources electronically with other institutions, researchers, and the public. IMLS research identifies national needs for and trends in museum, library, and information services. The Museum and Library Services Act authorizes the Director of IMLS to annually conduct policy research, analysis, and data collection with ongoing collaboration and in consultation with libraries. The IMLS Open Government Plan has improved transparency in part by increasing the number of publicly available datasets on data.imls.gov, the open data catalog site.
- **IMLS plays a key role in policymaking.** IMLS provides critical information about library and museum service trends, including analysis of market conditions. IMLS advises Congress and the President on plans, policies and activities to increase public access to information. IMLS's strategic goals include placing the learner at the center to prepare people to fully participate in our country and the world.