



SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Colleagues and Friends,

We want to make you aware of a significant development regarding the future of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a vital source of federal funding for libraries nationwide.

On May 1, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump Administration's directive to eliminate IMLS. This action, brought forth by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), comes just days before the planned layoffs of all IMLS staff on May 4. Here is a copy of the [temporary restraining order](#).

This court order provides critical breathing room. However, it is only a temporary measure. The case is still under review, and the future of IMLS remains uncertain.

This is where we come in.

We must continue to advocate for robust federal support of libraries by urging Congress to fully fund the IMLS in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. These funds directly support essential services in our libraries like: grants, innovation, workforce development, digital equity, and more.

We must continuously remind them that libraries are not luxuries – they are lifelines! Remind them that we work to provide critical access to information, technology, education, and opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds. Tell our congressional representatives that across Suffolk County, we see every day how library services increase the patron's quality of life, connect communities, and bridge opportunity gaps. Without IMLS, these critical resources are at risk.

We encourage every SCLA member to visit ALA's [Fund Libraries Initiative](#) today. There, you can:

- Contact your elected officials with a few clicks
- Share stories from your library that demonstrate the importance of federal funding
- Amplify the message across your networks

Let's show our representatives that library funding is not optional, it is essential. Remind them that we are directly involved with our communities and we know the importance of funding. Lastly, we remind them that we are always informed and that we vote.

Thank you for your time and attention.

On Behalf of the Suffolk County Library Association Board,

Anthony Giansante
President
Suffolk County Library Association