

IMLS Information

Background

On March 14, 2025, the White House issued an executive order, [Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#). The order states, “the non-statutory components and functions of the following governmental entities shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law.” The [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) is one of seven federal agencies targeted by the order.

Minnesota State Library Services receives an annual allotment of funding from IMLS through the [Grants to States program](#) authorized by Congress under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) ([20 U.S.C. § 9121](#)).

According to [State Library Services](#), a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, LSTA dollars in Minnesota flow into four main initiatives:

- 48% to Partner-provided Statewide Services – Support for coordination across Minnesota, including [Minitex](#), that maximizes access to library collections
- 16% to Local Library Projects – Projects designed and implemented by individual libraries to meet community needs
- 20% to the [Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library](#) – Accessible library resources for Minnesotans who are blind or have difficulty reading due to visual impairment
- 16% to State Library Services Programming – Statewide training and professional development for library workers

LSTA funding supports these Minitex services:

- [Resource Sharing](#) receives \$1.15M in annual funding. These funds pay for statewide delivery (including a statewide courier service) and for the salaries of staff who pull items from shelves, digitize materials, and send them to patrons.
- A further \$80k goes to support outreach and instruction related to [eLibrary Minnesota](#). This gives Minnesotans the opportunity to learn how to use the resources in eLibrary Minnesota efficiently and effectively in order to find the authoritative, verifiable information they need, at the library, at school, and in the workplace.
- One-time federal grants (generally, in smaller amounts) have also supported:
 - Additions to the [Ebooks Minnesota](#) collection
 - Transcriptions for items in the [Minnesota Digital Library](#)
 - Development of the [MNLINK](#) interlibrary loan platform
 - [Professional development](#) opportunities for library staff.

Timeline

May 1

Judge Richard J. Leon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issues a ["narrow" Temporary Restraining Order in ALA & AFSCME v. Sonderling](#) to "prevent additional harm" while the court continues to consider the arguments of both parties.

April 18

In the District Court of Rhode Island, [Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. held a motion hearing](#) on *Rhode Island v. Trump*, an effort to preserve IMLS, the Minority Business and Development Agency (MBDA), and the Federal Mediation and

Conciliation Service (FMCS).

April 15

South Dakota State Library [announces April 30 termination of ILL courier service](#) as a result of the state's inability to receive IMLS funds despite their grant not being officially canceled. Minitex is having conversations with South Dakota libraries about future resource sharing, and is hoping to have a short-term solution in place soon.

April 11

AISLE, CARLI, IHLS, ILA, and RAILS [share a joint statement](#) in response to changes at IMLS.

April 10

Additional tribal libraries receive grant termination notices.

Some recipients of [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grants](#) and [National Leadership grants](#) receive grant termination notices.

Maine State Library announces staff layoffs and a temporary closure. Maine had been unable to receive IMLS funds since March 24 despite their grant not being officially canceled.

April 9

Some tribal libraries receive notice that their [Native American Library Services Basic Grants](#) are terminated, effective April 8. Fond du Lac and Red Lake are Minnesota's only recipients in FY2025.

April 7

A [second lawsuit](#) is filed by Democracy Forward on behalf of ALA and AFSCME with Minitex cited in paragraph #72. Democracy Forward has requested a ruling by May 4.

April 4

A coalition of 21 state attorneys general, including Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, files a [joint lawsuit](#) to halt the elimination of IMLS. U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. scheduled a hearing for the lawsuit for April 18.

April 3

A group of publishers sends a [letter](#) to Sonderling expressing concern over the turmoil at IMLS.

IMLS Advisory Board sends their [second letter](#) to Sonderling, demanding answers around IMLS staff cuts and grants management.

Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel terminates all IMLS Advisory Board members.

April 2

Members of Congress [write a letter](#) to express concern over proposed elimination of IMLS.

IMLS grantees, including some state libraries, receive notifications of award termination effective April 1, citing grants that are "inconsistent with IMLS priorities."

April 1

Approximately 12 IMLS staff are recalled to work.

March 31

IMLS staff placed on paid administrative leave for a period of up to 90 days. AFGE, a union supporting many IMLS staff, [issues a statement](#). Some states (though not Minnesota) immediately halt LSTA-funded services. ALA [issues a statement](#) reacting to actions against IMLS staff.

March 26

Bipartisan group of Senators composed of the lead authors of the Museum and Library Services Act (signed into law by President Trump) send a [letter to Sonderling](#).

March 24

IMLS Advisory Board sends Sonderling a [welcome letter](#) outlining required programs.

March 20

The North Dakota Library Association issues a [statement in response to the Executive Order](#).

March 19

[Keith Sonderling](#), Deputy Secretary of Labor, named Acting Director of IMLS, replacing former IMLS Acting Director Cyndee Landrum.

March 18

The Minnesota Library Association issues a [statement in response to the Executive Order](#). The statement includes a list of affected services as well as facts about Minnesota libraries.

March 14

Executive order signed.

Contextual Information

- [FAQ: Executive Order Targeting IMLS](#) - American Library Association
- [Federal Funding Disruptions](#) - Minnesota Management and Budget
- [IMLS Grant Cancellation Tracker](#) - Chief Officers of State Library Agencies' (COSLA)
- [Legislative Advocacy](#) - Minnesota Library Association
- [Library Services and Technology Act](#) - Minnesota State Library Services

Information from Other States

- [Executive Orders Impacting the State Library of Oregon](#)
- [Georgia Public Library Service and the Library Services and Technology Act](#) (PDF)
- [Federal Funding Makes a Local Difference in Colorado](#)
- [Federal Library Funding in Washington](#)
- [Indiana Library Federation Statement to the Library Community](#)
[Regarding the Defunding of IMLS](#) (PDF)
- [State Library of Ohio and IMLS Federal Funding](#)
- [Recollection Wisconsin Urges Continued Support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
- [Utah State Library IMLS Updates](#)

Resolutions in support of Minitex services

- [Arrowhead Library System Governing Board](#) (PDF)
- [Benton County Board of Commissioners](#) (PDF)
- [Board of Wright County Commissioners](#) (PDF)
- [Buckham Memorial Library Advisory Board](#) (PDF)
- [East Central Regional Library Board of Directors](#) (PDF)
- [Faribault County Board of Commissioners](#) (PDF)
- [Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees](#) (PDF)
- [Houston Public Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Kitchigami Regional Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board](#) (PDF)

- [New York Mills Public Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Northwest Regional Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Pioneerland Library System](#) (PDF)
- [Plum Creek Library System](#) (PDF)
- [Rochester Public Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Southeastern Libraries Cooperating & Southeast Library System Board of Directors](#) (PDF)
- [St. Charles Public Library Board](#) (PDF)
- [Traverse des Sioux Library System Board](#) (PDF)
- [Viking Library System Governing Board](#) (PDF)

IMLS in the News

- [Minnesota museums could be impacted after all employees at IMLS reportedly put on administrative leave](#) - KARE 11, April 2
- [You don't know what you've got until it's gone](#) - Pine City Pioneer, April 2
- [Minnesota interlibrary loan program at risk](#) - New Ulm Journal, April 5
- [Minnesota interlibrary loan program at risk](#) - Marshall Independent, April 5
- [Arts and culture organizations add billions to Minnesota’s economy.](#)
- [Federal funding they rely on is at risk.](#) - Star Tribune, April 9
- [How Trump cuts will affect MN libraries](#) - Winona Post, April 9
- [County: Library funding at risk](#) - Patriot News Minnesota, April 10
- [In celebration of public libraries and all they offer](#) - Faribault Daily News, April 11
- [Why was library funding shut off?](#) - Detroit Lakes Tribune, April 23
- [Lake Agassiz Region Library may lose funds due to an executive order](#) - Wahpeton Daily News, April 27

STAFF CONTACT



Zach Miller

Head of Communications

Subscribe to our newsletter

Get the latest Minitex News in your inbox every week

Subscribe

Minitex

University of Minnesota
Wilson Library, Room 60
309 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

☎ Phone: [612-624-4002](tel:612-624-4002)
☎ Toll-Free: [800-462-5348](tel:800-462-5348)
📠 Fax: 612-624-4508
✉ [Contact Us](#)

Quick Links

- » [About Minitex](#)
- » [MyMinitex](#)
- » [Logos & Images](#)

- » [Staff Directory](#)
- » [Payments & Billing](#)
- » [Order Promotional Materials](#)



Minitex is an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

©2020 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, University Libraries. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Read our [online privacy statement](#).

