

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Guide to Museum Funding Programs and Opportunities

Fiscal Year 2016



Funding Programs

How to Apply

Visit our website, www.imls.gov

The best place to start is our website. Our “Grant Applicants” section provides grant program descriptions, sample applications, and resources to help grant seekers develop competitive applications. IMLS funding programs tie directly to our strategic goals, so be sure to review the IMLS Strategic Plan at www.imls.gov/plan.

Select a grant program

Search grant programs by name, read the program overviews, and explore awarded grants to identify the program(s) that best fit your project.

Check eligibility requirements

Eligibility criteria vary by program. Check the program-specific criteria to determine if your institution is eligible to apply.

Read the Notices of Funding Opportunities

Read the Notices of Funding Opportunities carefully to get all the information you need about the grant program that best meets your needs. Notices become available on our website 60 to 90 days before the program deadlines. The FY 2015 versions will remain available for reference until the FY 2016 Notices are posted.

Participate in a webinar

We invite you to participate in pre-application webinars to learn more about programs, ask questions, and listen to the questions and comments of other participants. The webinar schedule and instructions for participating are included in the Notices of Funding Opportunities.

Check your registrations

Submitting a grant application to IMLS is a multistep process. You must have a Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S® Number; a current and active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration, which must be renewed annually; and an up-to-date registration with Grants.gov. These processes take time. Ensure that your registrations are active and correct well before the application deadline.

Contact a program staff member

We welcome calls from applicants and are happy to answer your questions about the grant application and review process. Conversations with program staff can help you to explore how your idea may match the goals of a grant program.

Photos: Cover left: A community lecture held in Gosnell Hall at the Nantucket Historical Association's Whaling Museum. Cover right: The Magic Planet exhibit at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science. Back (Making and Learning): MAKESHOP at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Description
12/1/15	Museums for America	\$5,000 – \$25,000	Grants at two different funding levels support activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, vital components of livable communities, and good stewards of the nation's collections.
		\$25,001 – \$150,000	
12/1/15	National Leadership Grants for Museums	\$50,000 – \$500,000	Grants support projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field, have broad impact, and demonstrate innovation and collaboration.
12/1/15	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$5,000 – \$25,000	Grants at two different funding levels strengthen African American museums by improving care of collections, developing professional management, or providing internship and fellowship opportunities.
		\$25,001 – \$150,000	
12/1/15	Native American/ Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program	\$5,000 – \$50,000	Grants to federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations enhance museum services to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge.
12/1/15	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums	\$10,000 – \$25,000	Grants provide opportunities to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices.

Technical Assistance Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
TBD	Conservation Assessment Program	Program provides a general conservation assessment of a museum's collection, environmental conditions, and site.
7/1/15 and 12/1/15	Museum Assessment Program, administered by the American Alliance of Museums	Program helps museums strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet national standards through self-study and a site visit from a peer reviewer.

Award Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
10/1/15	National Medal for Museum and Library Service	Awards celebrate outstanding museums and libraries that make extraordinary contributions to their communities.
February 2016	National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards, a partnership with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities	Awards acknowledge museums and libraries for afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities youth programming.

About Us

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grantmaking, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

IMLS's national initiatives and partnerships help raise public awareness about the value of libraries and museums, identify trends, and provide opportunities for sharing best practices.



Museums for All: IMLS and the Association of Children's Museums are working to ensure that every family and child has access to a high quality museum experience through the Museums for All national pilot initiative. Families with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards will receive free or discounted admission to participating museums any day they visit.



Making and Learning: IMLS is building the capacity of museums to foster experimentation, invention, and exploration through the creation of makerspaces. With the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh we are developing a Maker Framework so that institutions can learn from early adopters.



Let's Move! Museums & Gardens: Developed in coordination with national museum and garden leaders and in conjunction with First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign for healthy kids and families, *Let's Move! Museums & Gardens* is teaching young people to make healthy food choices and be physically active.



Connecting to Collections Care: With support from IMLS, the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works manages an online community of practice. Connecting to Collections Care, or C2C Care, provides vital resources, training webinars, and discussion forums on a broad range of collections care topics.

Keep in Touch and Share Your Thoughts

Website: www.imls.gov

UpNext, the IMLS Blog: <http://blog.imls.gov>

Primary Source monthly e-newsletter: www.imls.gov/signup.aspx



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