



Frequently Asked Questions In the Event of an Appropriations Lapse

Will IMLS accept grant applications during a government shutdown?

IMLS accepts applications through Grants.gov, which will remain available with certain restrictions during a government shutdown. Additional information will be available on www.grants.gov.

Can IMLS staff be in contact with an applicant or grantee during a government shutdown?

No. IMLS staff will be unavailable, both by email and telephone, during a government shutdown. For questions needing immediate resolution, please contact Scott Carey, IMLS Chief Operating Officer, scarey@imls.gov, 202-653-4690.

Will upcoming IMLS webinars be held during a government shutdown?

Upcoming webinars will be postponed; previously recorded webinars are located on the IMLS website.

Can an IMLS grantee or recipient of a cooperative agreement that has an award through an IMLS program continue to work on their previously awarded IMLS funded project?

An award recipient may continue to work on their previously approved IMLS grant or Cooperative Agreement, only incurring appropriate obligations and/or expenses up to the award amount on their official award notification letter, AND only in accordance with their IMLS approved budget plan and timeline in the award. Any deliverables and/or grant award modifications requiring approval from IMLS staff will not be addressed until the government is back open.

Will recipients of IMLS grants and cooperative agreements get paid during a government shutdown?

In most cases, no. During a funding hiatus, IMLS will not process requests for payment for its discretionary programs. Should a funding hiatus extend beyond a week, an excepted IMLS employee may process payments to a State Library Administrative Agency from previously obligated awards on a limited and case-by-case basis.

If there is an extended government shutdown (one that exceeds several weeks), the IMLS Directive in the Absence of Appropriations will be reviewed by IMLS and the Office of Management & Budget to determine if an alternate course of action must be taken. Payments will resume when the government is back open.

Can grantees submit grant reports and/or reimbursement requests during a shutdown?

Grantees may continue to submit the appropriate reports and/or reimbursement requests (SF270s) during a government shutdown to grantsadmin@imls.gov and imlsreporting@imls.gov. These reports will be addressed by the appropriate staff upon returning to the IMLS office.