



Dear Colleague -

The Office of Library Services (OLS) is pleased that you are considering seeking support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the important work that you do for your communities as our whole nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Now more than ever, we are thrilled to support America's libraries, which can and should serve as civic centers of learning and culture for a nation of citizens. Benjamin Franklin once hoped that America's libraries would make America's "common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries." We hope that by playing a leading role in our national celebration of 250 years of independence, libraries across America fulfill Franklin's vision as bastions of education and culture in every community. We are excited not only to support general improvements across the library field, but also to promote libraries as they teach Americans about their heritage and history, especially one of the greatest chapters in the human story-- America's founding.

We encourage you to carefully read the Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the library grant programs and shape your proposal in a way that responds to the Goals and Objectives of the program you choose.

In addition to the requirements set out in the NOFOs, OLS encourages you to consider how your work might build upon, or relate to, OLS' field-wide programs and initiatives. OLS particularly welcomes projects that:

- Meaningfully engage and educate communities about our nation's great history and the incredible story of America's founding, in fitting commemoration of the 250th anniversary of American Independence.
- Leverage libraries' roles in their communities to connect workers with employers, apprenticeship programs, skills training and the public workforce system. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider [Executive Order \(EO\) 14278](#), "Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future."
- Expand on the important roles libraries play in connecting their communities with health services, promoting overall physical excellence and mental wellness.
- Build bridges and further meaningful partnerships with other civic institutions in their communities, including but not limited to local governments and philanthropic organizations.
- Facilitate regular and family-friendly programming that is of social and educational benefit to children and parents alike.

- Creatively and effectively use new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to improve both academic practices and visitor experiences at our nation's libraries. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider [EO 14277](#), "Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth," as they work on related projects.
- In his inaugural address, President Trump said "We will stand bravely, we will live proudly, we will dream boldly, and nothing will stand in our way because we are Americans." We welcome projects that refocus cultural institutions on what unites us by fostering respectful civil dialogue. In doing so, we acknowledge our core Constitutional Rights, including Free Exercise of Religion. Applicants may find it helpful to review and consider [EO 14188](#), "Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism," and [EO 14202](#), "Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias," as they work on projects to strengthen American civil society.

Upon reviewing the NOFOs, you will see that there are several programs within OLS. Should you choose to apply within the grant program below, we provide additional information about topics and priorities that we aim to emphasize in this funding cycle:

- National Leadership Grant for Libraries Program: We are especially supportive of projects that focus on historical education and archival practices which relate to our shared American history. We are also interested in programs that promote adult literacy, including not only traditional understandings of what constitutes literacy, but also health and financial literacy.

To fulfill the President's promise that "the forgotten man and woman will be forgotten no longer," we enthusiastically welcome institutions which serve rural and remote communities to apply, as well as those which haven't traditionally been recipients of federal funding. We also encourage institutions that promote a positive and uplifting vision of American history and our shared national achievements to consider applying to IMLS.

Thank you for your interest in working with IMLS as we celebrate America's 250th birthday and further its spirit for years to come. We look forward to partnering with your institution to share our nation's tremendous heritage with all our fellow citizens!

Sincerely,



Keith E. Sonderling



Lisa Solomson
Senior Official Performing the Duties of IMLS Director