

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Guide to Funding Programs and Opportunities

Fiscal Year 2015



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 guidelines, sample applications, and resources to help grant seekers develop competitive applications. IMLS funding programs are related 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, by eligible institution type, and by project type. Review program descriptions and previously funded projects 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 application guidelines

Read the application guidelines carefully to get all the information you need about the grant program that best meets your institutional priorities. Guidelines become available on our website 60 to 90 days before the program deadline. The FY 2014 versions will remain available for reference until the FY 2015 guidelines 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, instructions for participating, and links to archived webinars are included in the guidelines.

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, and you should be sure these 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.

Visit www.imls.gov/grants for grant program contact information and additional details.

Museum Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Description
12/1/14	Museums for America	\$5,000 – \$150,000	Grants support activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, vital components of livable communities, and good stewards of the nation’s collections.
12/1/14	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.
12/1/14	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$5,000 – \$150,000	Grants strengthen African American museums by improving care of collections, developing professional management, or providing internship and fellowship opportunities.
12/1/14	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.
12/1/14	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums	\$10,000 – \$25,000	Grants provide opportunities to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices.

Museum Technical Assistance Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
12/1/14	Conservation Assessment Program, administered by Heritage Preservation	Program provides a general conservation assessment of a museum's collection, environmental conditions, and site.
7/1/14 and 12/1/14	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.

Library Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Description
9/15/14	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	\$50,000 – \$500,000	Grants support recruitment and education of library students and continuing education for those already in the profession, as well as the development of new programs and curricula.
10/13/14	National Leadership Grants for Libraries (two deadlines)	\$50,000 – \$500,000	Grants drive excellence in library practice to deliver STEM education, support innovative use of library spaces, and advance a national digital platform.
2/2/15		\$50,000 – \$500,000	Grants support library and library organization projects that improve professional practice beyond the grantee institution.
2/2/15	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries	\$10,000 – \$25,000	Grants provide an opportunity to expand and test the boundaries of services and practices for the library and archival professions.
3/2/15	Native American Library Services: Basic Grants with Education/Assessment Option	Varies	Noncompetitive grants to federally recognized tribes help buy library materials, fund salaries and training, and provide Internet connectivity and computers.
3/2/15	Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants	Up to \$150,000	Grants to federally recognized tribes expand services for learning, access to information, and partnerships.
4/1/15	Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants	Varies	Grants enhance existing or implement new library services in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians.
4/1/15	LSTA Competitive Grants for the Pacific Region and US Virgin Islands	Varies	Grants support library services in the U.S. Pacific Territories, Freely Associated States, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

LSTA Grants to States Program

The Library Services and Technology Act provides annual grants to support library services in each state. To learn more about our largest grant program and how it works in your state, and to find background material and contact information for your state librarian, visit the state-specific profiles at www.ims.gov/programs/state_profiles.aspx.

Award Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
10/15/14	National Medal for Museum and Library Service	Awards celebrate outstanding museums and libraries that make extraordinary contributions to their communities.
February 2015	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 17,500 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 national initiatives, partnerships, and grant priorities help to raise public awareness about the value of libraries and museums, and to identify trends and share best practices.



Early Learning: IMLS is pursuing a multiyear strategy to strengthen museum and library programming for young children, raise the profile of libraries and museums in national and state early learning strategies, and provide data to inform policymakers and practitioners.



National Medal for Museum and Library Service: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums. Each year we honor outstanding institutions that make extraordinary contributions to their communities.



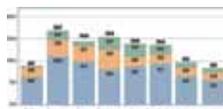
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math): Libraries and museums offer powerful experiences that engage children and young adults in a wide variety of STEM fields. In FY 2015 IMLS will continue to support innovative efforts such as makerspaces and learning labs.



Civic Literacy: Libraries are an essential source of information about government services. IMLS is working with a wide variety of federal agencies to reach citizens through local libraries. Partners include United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Employment and Training Administration, and the Administration for Children and Families.



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.



Research Programs: Learn about IMLS research, evaluation, and statistics programs at www.ims.gov/research.

Keep in touch and share your thoughts

Website: www.ims.gov

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

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



Address: 1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802

Phone: 202-653-IMLS (4657) **Fax:** 202-653-4600

E-mail: imsinfo@ims.gov

Teletype (TTY/TDD) for persons with hearing difficulty: 202-653-4614

Photos: Cover left: Photo by Bruce Silcox, courtesy of Minnesota Children's Museum. Cover right: Photo by Jeff Evans, courtesy of Norwich, Connecticut's Otis Library. Back (Early Learning): Courtesy of California's Rancho Cucamonga Public Library. Back (STEM): Photo by Paul Spect, courtesy of the Boston Children's Museum. Back (Civic Literacy): USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas administers the Oath of Allegiance, photo courtesy of USCIS.