



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**State Library
of Oregon**

250 Winter St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

503-378-4243

www.oregon.gov/library

Contact: Wendy Cornelisen

State Librarian

wendy.cornelisen@slo.oregon.gov, 503-378-4367

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salem, Ore – The State of Oregon, alongside 19 other states, is seeking a temporary restraining order against the current administration’s March 31, 2025 action placing nearly all Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) staff on administrative leave. The motion is supported by [written testimony](#) from Oregon’s State Librarian, Wendy Cornelisen, detailing the effects of the IMLS shutdown on the State Library of Oregon and local libraries in Oregon.

“I know that the impact of this action would cause IMLS to be unable to administer financial programs on which the State Library of Oregon relies and on which it expects to rely in the future, it will cause significant financial harm to the State of Oregon and hamper the State’s efforts to facilitate access to information through providing library services,” Cornelisen said in her testimony.

This action follows from [Executive Order 14238](#), which proposed eliminating the “non-statutory components and functions” of seven federal agencies, including IMLS. The IMLS action threatens \$2.6 million in funding that the State Library relies on for a quarter of its annual budget.

Funds from IMLS support a number of critical services used by libraries across Oregon including:

- Two-thirds of the [Library Support and Development Services division](#) staff, who advise and support the 1,600 academic, public school, and special libraries and Tribal Nations around the state. These staff also coordinate the programs listed below.
- Free access for all Oregonians to electronic articles from magazines, newspapers, academic journals, and more through the [Statewide Database Licensing Program](#).
- [Northwest Digital Heritage](#), a site that collects over one million digitized photographs, letters, documents, and more from over 250 libraries, museums, and other institutions around the Pacific Northwest.
- [Competitive grant programs](#) for libraries that have funded projects as diverse as bookmobiles, teen internships in libraries, loanable laptops for low-income students, makerspaces, and digital skills training.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

- Statewide and regional programs such as the [Oregon Battle of the Books](#), [Oregon School Library Information System](#) (OSLIS), [Library2Go](#), and half of the [Sage Library System](#) courier system serving over 75 libraries across 15 counties in Eastern Oregon.
- [Answerland](#), the state's 24/7 online chat reference service that connects people with questions to librarians with answers.
- Free professional development opportunities for library staff, volunteers, and board members.

The above programs and many more are paid in whole or part by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, statutorily administered by IMLS. The LSTA was enacted by Congress as part of the Museum and Library Services Act in 1996. It includes annual grants to all 50 states through IMLS's [Grants to States](#) program.

In addition to threatening current fiscal year projects, IMLS's uncertain status means that the State Library is unable to make financial commitments for next fiscal year. The agency has not yet received its FFY 2025 award letter from IMLS. Confirmation of the 2025 award is necessary to fund staff, ongoing services, contracts with vendors, and the 2025 competitive grant cycle that is in process now. Congress authorized FFY 2025 funding for IMLS in continuing resolution [HR 1968](#), which became law on March 15, 2025.

Oregon is joined in the motion for the temporary restraining order by Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. The request was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. The State is represented by the Oregon Department of Justice.

For more information, contact State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen at wendy.cornelisen@slo.oregon.gov or 503-378-4367.