

IMLS LIBRARY FUNDING CUTS

On March 14th, President Trump signed Executive Order 14238 intended to dismantle the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, as well as six other agencies.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) receives \$3.6 million from IMLS' Grants to States Program.

How the state uses these funds:

- ComCat, the statewide interlibrary loan service
- Statewide research databases
- Statewide trainings for librarians to increase access for people with vision loss
- Summer reading
- Statewide e-books and audiobooks
- Data collection & reporting
- Half of MBLC's staff's wages are at least partially funded by federal aid

IMLS funding costs only **\$0.87 per person** annually. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) estimates that **for every dollar spent on public libraries, we return five dollars in services.**

How to stay informed:



ALA's Show Up For Libraries Campaign is a centralized hub for ways to take action.

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>



Receive alerts from EveryLibrary about building support for libraries.

<https://www.everylibrary.org/>



Submit a quote, picture, or video about the things you love about the library.

<https://www.lovemasslibraries.com/>



ALA American
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TIMELINE

as of 4/3/2025

SARGENT
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

3/14/25

President Trump signs **Executive Order 14238** that targets federal funding to libraries and museums.

3/26/25

U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) leads a bipartisan effort to **send a letter to the IMLS acting director** seeking assurances that allocated federal funding for IMLS will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with bipartisan approved appropriations laws.

(<https://www.reed.senate.gov/news/releases/reed-leads-bipartisan-effort-to-preserve-support-for-public-libraries-and-museums>)

3/28/25

MBLC announces that statewide databases, ComCat, and the platform that makes statewide eBook sharing possible will continue uninterrupted for the remainder of the fiscal year (ending June 30, 2025).

(https://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc_blog/2025/03/31/mblc-march-28-update-on-impls/)

3/31/25

The entire staff of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (about 75 people) is put on administrative leave as a result of President Trump's **Executive Order 14238**.

(<https://www.npr.org/2025/03/31/nx-s1-5334415/doge-institute-of-museum-and-library-services>)

4/3/25

MBLC announces 4 services that will be eliminated immediately due to the anticipated funding cuts including grants awarded in February 2025 and training and continued education for library staff, Trustees, Friends of the Library groups, and foundations.

(<https://mblc.state.ma.us/news/news-releases/2025/nr250403.php>)