

## **CARLI Statement on the Changes at IMLS April 2025**

On March 14, 2025, President Trump issued [Executive Order 14238](#), continuing the reduction in staffing for several federal agencies. Among the seven agencies affected by this order is the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the largest source of federal funding for libraries. Since its establishment in 1996, the IMLS has been instrumental in delivering essential financial support, conducting investigative research, and providing strategic policy guidance to strengthen libraries across the nation.

As a direct result of this executive order, the [Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois](#) (CARLI) received a termination notice on April 9 for its IMLS 2024 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Planning Grant, titled [“Consortial Collaboration for Academic Library Leadership Success”](#) (CCALLS). This grant was aimed at planning the possible expansion of CARLI Counts, a tremendously successful CARLI program, to other U.S. library consortia. Expanding CARLI Counts would have helped libraries better assess their impact, leading to more responsive services, improved resource access, and enhanced support for the evolving needs of their patrons. Similarly, the Illinois Fire Service Institute was notified of the termination of its grant, “Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis,” a collaborative project in which CARLI was a partner. This grant would have positioned libraries to serve as trusted community hubs during emergencies—providing accurate information, internet access, safe gathering spaces, and support for vulnerable populations, especially in rural and underserved areas where libraries are often the only public resource.

For nearly three decades, IMLS has been a driving force behind countless programs and initiatives that have profoundly benefited library organizations, students, and faculty across the United States. It has provided invaluable opportunities for learning and enrichment, fostering education and creativity among residents and enhancing professional development for students entering the workforce.

CARLI urges you to explore the American Library Association’s [Show Up for Our Libraries](#) information, and make your voice heard by contacting your members of Congress. Share your experiences and highlight how libraries have made a meaningful difference in students’ lives and their growth as professionals. Advocate for the importance of an educated future generation. The elimination of IMLS jeopardizes the only source of federal funding solely dedicated to supporting museums and libraries, along with the transformative programs and services provided by these organizations.

The loss of these vital opportunities for learning and development is not just a deficit for students deprived of these resources, it is a profound setback for society itself. Without the knowledge and understanding fostered by libraries, we risk diminishing our collective capacity to grow, connect, and thrive.

Please see also the [Joint Statement on Changes at the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), issued by the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, CARLI, Illinois Heartland Library System, Illinois Library Association, and the Reaching Across Illinois Library System; and Library Journal’s [Roundup: Statements in Response to Executive Order Impacting the Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#).

The CARLI Governance Board of Directors  
April 17, 2025