



# **Appropriations Request for Fiscal Year 2021**

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# INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

## Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Request

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## I. Introduction: The Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent grantmaking agency and the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

IMLS was created with the passage of the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996, which was reauthorized on December 31, 2018. The agency has statutory authority to award financial assistance, collect data, form strategic partnerships, and advise policymakers and other federal agencies on museum, library, and information services. The agency consolidates federal library programs dating back to 1956 with museum programs dating back to 1976. On January 24, 2020, the Trump Administration commissioned the sixth director of IMLS, Crosby Kemper III.

The agency helps to ensure that all Americans have access to museum, library, and information services. IMLS invests in new and exploratory approaches, as well as proven and tested methods, funding work that advances collective knowledge, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. And the agency builds capacity within the museum and library fields to enable better service to communities and to enhance community decision-making by sharing trends and data.

IMLS has an expansive reach. The agency is the largest source of federal funding for libraries in the nation, directing population-based funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and Freely Associated States through its Grants to States program. The agency’s discretionary grants are selected through a highly respected and competitive peer review process, drawing on professionals located across the nation. This work enables museums and libraries located in geographically and economically diverse areas to deliver essential services that make it possible for individuals and communities to flourish.

When IMLS was established, lawmakers recognized that libraries and museums in the United States are powerful national assets. They saw “great potential in an Institute that is focused on the combined roles that libraries and museums play in our community life.” The law charges IMLS with advising policymakers on library, museum, and information services and supporting a wide range of programs that improve the lives of millions.

We carry out this charge as we adapt to meet the changing needs of our nation’s museums and libraries and their communities. IMLS’s role—to advance, support, and empower America’s museums and libraries through our grantmaking, research, data collection, and policy development—is essential to helping these institutions navigate change and continue to improve their services.

The agency’s strategic goals and objectives are outlined in *Transforming Communities*, the IMLS Strategic Plan 2018–2022. This plan, developed with input from our stakeholders, frames how we envision meeting the essential information, education, research, economic, cultural, and civic needs of the American public:

1. **Promote Lifelong Learning:** IMLS supports learning and literacy for people of all ages through museums and libraries.
2. **Build Capacity:** IMLS strengthens the capacity of museums and libraries to improve the well-being of their communities.

3. **Increase Public Access:** IMLS makes strategic investments that increase access to information, ideas, and networks through libraries and museums.
4. **Achieve Excellence:** IMLS strategically aligns its resources and relationships to support libraries and museums nationwide.

## II. Grant Programs

IMLS grants programs support a wide range of museum, library, and information services that benefit millions of Americans each year. The agency's grants support museums of all disciplines, including zoos, children's museums, science centers, botanical gardens, and nature centers, as well as libraries and archives of all types, including public, research, academic, and tribal. IMLS builds capacity among museums and libraries to help them address the unique economic, information, education, and civic needs of their communities.

In FY 2019 and FY 2020, the agency's notices of funding opportunity incorporated several strategic changes, including:

- Incorporation of current priorities among the museum and library sectors, such as:
  - Investing in digital infrastructures, platforms and educational tools;
  - Increasing accessibility to address technology, financial or physical limitations;
  - Enhancing communities' social and economic wellbeing;
  - Collections stewardship;
  - Diversity and inclusion;
  - Broadband and digital literacy; and
  - Family and adult learning.
- Encouragement for applicants to build upon prior IMLS-funded research or exploratory work to extend those investments into more widely accessible practices or tools through piloting or scaling projects.
- Greater emphasis on professional development; organizational capacity-building and training; and assessment and evaluation.

The agency also engaged in targeted outreach to motivate submissions from new applicant institutions, as well as those who have not applied for several years. Also targeted were institutions located in geographically diverse regions, including those serving rural areas, which have been under-represented in the agency's applicant pools. IMLS also offered two new library and museum funding opportunities to better serve the needs of smaller institutions and their communities.

## Library Grants

**The Grants to States Program** is the largest source of federal funding support for library services in the United States. Using a population based formula, more than \$160 million was awarded in FY 2019 to the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) located in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the United States Territories, and the Freely Associated States. For the FY 2020 budget, an increase of \$6 million brought the total funding for states up to \$166.8 million.

SLAAs use the funds to support statewide initiatives and services, as well as more than 1,500 projects each year, which are directly carried out by public, academic, research, school, and special libraries. States use the funds to address the statutory purposes and priorities in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), ensuring the availability of library services by providing access to electronic databases, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and tools supporting workforce development. This program is critical to ensuring digital access for everyone in the United States, wherever located.

As one priority of the program is to address underserved communities and persons having difficulty using a library, more than ten percent of grant funds in recent years has supported library services for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or who have other disabilities.

**National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG-L)** support projects that address significant challenges and opportunities facing the library and archive fields and that have the potential for far-reaching impact. By generating new tools, research, and practice models that can be widely replicated, NLG-L projects influence theory and practice throughout the library and archival communities. These investments ultimately support students, educators, families, and at-risk individuals by providing easier access to information and skill-building resources.

**The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (LB21)** grants support professional development, graduate education, and continuing education to help libraries and archives develop a better equipped and more diverse workforce to more strategically meet the changing learning and information needs of the American public. LB21 investments cross a wide range of practice areas—from early learning to digital literacy—that reach into communities both urban and rural.

**Native American/Native Hawaiian Library Services (NANH)** grants build capacity among native communities to meet the educational needs of their populations. It offers three categories of grants to libraries or organizations serving the needs of federally recognized Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians.

- Basic tribal grants to support existing library operations and maintain core library services, including purchasing collection materials, computers, and Internet connectivity to provide access to online resources;
- Tribal enhancement grants to expand and enhance existing library services or implement new library services including partnerships for learning and access. This includes support for literacy initiatives, language preservation and revitalization, and oral history projects.
- Native Hawaiian grants to enhance existing or to support new services in organizations that serve native Hawaiians. This includes support for development of K-12 teaching materials, language preservation and revitalization, and oral history projects.

## **Museum Grants**

These investments cross all types of museums, including children's museums, science centers, history museums, art museums, historic houses, zoos, aquaria, planetariums, botanical gardens, and general museums supporting lifelong learning, community engagement, preservation, and access to collections and stories.

**National Leadership Grants for Museums (NLG-M)** support projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance professional practice that spur museums to improve services for the American public. NLG-M projects support novel approaches, new research, techniques, models, common and shared platforms, and collaborative processes, all with the potential for far-reaching impact within the museum field.

IMLS staff share information about NLG-M funded projects through the IMLS website, blogs, and case study discussions on panels at national and state conferences so that the whole museum sector to learn from, adopt, and adapt these models.

**Museums for America Program (MFA)** grants support projects that strengthen an individual museum's ability to serve its public. The program supports a wide spectrum of museums of all sizes and geographic locations, building capacity and helping improving services in local communities. MFA projects demonstrate institutional impact, addressing a key goal identified in the institution's strategic plan with project elements designed to generate measurable results. They support museums in preserving the artifacts that are essential to community identity, as well as offering valued programs and exhibits to meet local needs and drive economic activity.

**Museums Empowered: Professional Development and Capacity Building Opportunities for Museums** is a special MFA initiative that provides professional development and capacity-building opportunities. This enables museums to address relevant needs of their local communities in four areas: Digital Technology; Diversity and Inclusion; Evaluation; or Organizational Management. Funded projects are designed to bring about transformative and systemic change in the recipient institutions and also impact the communities they serve.

**Museum Grants for African American History and Culture Program (AAHC)** grants support projects that improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at museums of African American history and culture.

**Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services (NANH)** grants support federally recognized Indian tribes and organizations that primarily serve Native Hawaiians. NANH grants help sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge through various initiatives, including exhibitions, educational services and programming, professional development, and collections stewardship, including the collection and preservation of oral history traditions. Grant-supported activities demonstrate institutional impact by addressing an identified need or challenge facing an organization.

### **III. Budget Request Table**

The President's budget has proposed eliminating funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in FY 2021. As a result, IMLS requests \$23M to begin the orderly closure of the Agency. The request reflects current ongoing activities that will extend into FY 2021, those that are legislatively mandated, such as the library data collections and analysis, and those other areas and activities that may transition to other federal partners. Estimates provided assume enacted legislation to terminate funding for IMLS on October 1, 2020.

Summary Table

Budget Category	President's Budget Request
Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$14,000,000
Rent, Communication Services, and Utilities	\$2,000,000
Contractual Services, Interagency Agreements, and other expenses	\$7,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,000,000</b>

Details of Cost Estimates by Budget Category

**Personnel Compensation & Benefits**

These object classes fund the salaries and benefits of all employees, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and intermittent appointments (for example, the National Museum and Library Services Board [NMLSB]), and consultants. To minimize personnel costs, the salary for the NMLSB will remain at \$100/day. The personnel benefits provide estimated contributions toward employees' retirement, health, and life insurance plans, as well as costs for unemployment benefits and any injuries sustained in the workplace. Additionally, costs associated with public transportation subsidies afforded to the Agency's employees are included in this category. This funding request will provide for 71 full-time employees during FY 2021, with reduced staff occurring in the last quarter to begin procedures and activities for an orderly Agency shutdown. Additionally, funding in this category includes leave and severance payouts, COLA, and unemployment costs.

**Real Estate (Rent for GSA space), Communications and Utilities, Equipment Rental, Telephone Services, Postage**

This object class includes funding for the Agency's office space through GSA; communication technology services, including data, voice, and cable services; equipment rental; and postage.

**Contractual Services, Interagency Agreements, Equipment, Data Collection & Warehousing**

This object class supports a wide range of contractual services and federal interagency agreements that are not covered in any of the preceding categories, as well as any termination costs that would be associated with preparing for an orderly Agency shutdown. All interagency agreements would be required to continue in FY 2021 to begin the orderly shutdown of the Agency, with increased costs in certain areas such as records management and NARA requirements, data migration activities, financial closeouts, and the disposal of furniture, fixtures and equipment. Covered areas and activities include:

- The support and maintenance of Agency information technology (IT) systems, including cybersecurity activities, the IMLS website, and the State Program Reporting System, among others;
- IT software licenses and incidentals;
- Cleaning and disposing of computers and servers;
- Data archiving and documentation management and/or transfers to other federal partners for historical purposes and public use;
- Ongoing data collection activities, including the Public Library Survey and the State Library Administrative Survey;
- Partnerships and interagency agreements with and for:

- Federal Aviation Administration - Enterprise Services Center (ESC) for financial management and reporting, financial system maintenance, and full accounting services;
  - Department of Interior (DOI) – National Business Center (NBC) for full payroll services and reporting;
  - Department of Transportation – E2 Solutions – for travel processing;
  - Department of Interior for indirect grant cost proposal services,
  - General Services Administration (GSA) and Department of Treasury for Data Act requirements and HSPD-12 maintenance;
  - Federal Protective Services (FPS) for building security;
  - Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for personnel investigations, credit monitoring, and electronic personnel filing;
  - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for staff health services;
  - National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the partnership to support electronic grants management services (eGMS) governance and infrastructure costs;
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Grants.gov related expenses;
  - Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO); and
  - Other required government services.
- Independent financial and IT-related audits;
  - National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) management and disposition;
  - Agency contracts for temporary personnel assistance;
  - General supplies;
  - Required travel for Board meetings, Grants to States site visits per legislation, final Data Coordinators’ meeting, other meetings and conferences for the Director and other senior staff for grant monitoring and closure activities.

#### **IV. Assumptions and Estimated Costs for Agency Shutdown Beginning in FY 2021**

IMLS will fulfill its federal responsibilities for grants and essential contracts prior to FY 2021. While no new applications will be accepted, nor awards made, beginning in FY 2021, IMLS will require administrative funding to support a reduced workforce and related costs to effectively terminate all Agency operations. All current awards will remain active until their already established end dates, many of which go beyond FY 2021. The following assumptions have been made in estimating the costs of shutting down the Agency.

- Current grantees will be notified that a reduced number of IMLS staff will be available to monitor, administer, and close out existing grants.
- Current vendors will be notified that their contracts will be terminated if their services are no longer required to perform an orderly shutdown of the Agency.
- Prospective applicants will be notified on the termination of the Agency’s grant programs. The public will be notified via the IMLS website.
- Federal partners will be notified that current interagency agreements will be terminated as deemed necessary.

- IMLS private-sector partners will be notified that any partnership activities that were to be undertaken in FY 2021 will be terminated.
- IMLS will continue to reduce staff during the orderly shutdown. Those staff remaining on board will be responsible for conducting the necessary oversight and proper closeout activities of open grant awards, contracts, and interagency agreements. Others will provide the necessary oversight for these employees, while initiating the logical shutdown of IMLS systems, financial reporting, building operations, publications, and mandatory personnel-related work for these activities.
- For discontinued employees, all appropriate compensation will be provided, including but not limited to severance pay, lump-sum payments for unused annual leave, and performance bonuses generated by eligible employees' closeout performance appraisals.

## V. Programmatic and Performance Highlights

### Library Grant Highlights

- To encourage small and rural library applicants and strengthen their ability to serve their communities, IMLS launched a new funding opportunity in 2019, Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP). The first 30 awards totaling \$1.2 million under this funding opportunity within the National Leadership Grants for Libraries will address the unique needs identified by tribal, rural, and small libraries. APP will also build grantee capacity through participation in a mentored community of practice based on their project category: School Library Practice, Community Memory, or Digital Inclusion.
- A state library project in Minnesota developed partnerships between public libraries and coin laundromats to test new models of early literacy outreach using Grants to States funds. This successful pilot was expanded through FY 2019 National Leadership Grants for Libraries funding.
- To further scale promising work with citizen science resources and public libraries, IMLS strengthened investments in low-cost toolkits that circulate in libraries in support of vetted citizen science projects. This supplemental National Leadership Grant to Arizona State University will continue progress made since 2017.
- IMLS hosted and participated in two key stakeholder meetings in 2019 to enhance the agency's service to tribal communities. An IMLS Tribal Libraries Convening in June helped to identify shared needs in order to expand opportunity, access, and connectivity to Indian Country, and a National Tribal Broadband Summit was carried out as part of the American Broadband Initiative.
- In addition to project-based grants, IMLS continues to fund early career research. An FY 2019 award to Louisiana State University faculty is researching effective practices to help archivists assist veterans and active duty personnel in preserving their personal digital archives, since contemporary soldiers no longer create and maintain analog personal archives as they did in the past.
- IMLS funded the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University Library to develop a three-year continuing education program to train academic library practitioners to address

privacy and related ethical implications of learning analytics projects. Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program funds will support face-to-face and online trainings of 200 participants each and make the training curriculum openly available.

## Museum Grant Highlights

- The Office of Museum Services supported projects in 48 states and the District of Columbia through its discretionary grants, National Medals for Museum Service awards, and cooperative agreements.
- Launched at the end of 2018, Inspire! Grants for Small Museums, designed to encourage small institutions to apply for funding, generated 202 applications in its first year. Of those FY 2019 applications, IMLS awarded 30 grants totaling \$1.1 million, representing 15 percent of the applicants, demonstrating a need for continued support for the nation's small museums.
- In order to align funding categories with evolving trends and needs of the museum sector, the agency revised its grant project categories across several funding programs. Applications to museum funding programs increased by 15 percent from 819 to 938, seeking support for diversity and inclusion, professional development initiatives, data analysis, assessment, and evaluation.
- An interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of Education provided funding of \$1.9 million to IMLS in collaboration with New York Hall of Science. The funding will scale up work with eight museums across the country, sharing STEM-based making opportunities with up to 1,000 underserved students in 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- IMLS launched three research and evaluation studies designed to better understand its investments, identify gaps and opportunities, and enhance its funding opportunities for the museum field: an evaluation of the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program, now in its thirteenth year; a market analysis and opportunity assessment of museum capacity-building programs; and an analysis and synthesis of multi-year awarded grants.
- To increase education about IMLS funding opportunities in remote areas and states with low participation numbers, the agency offered six regional grant-writing workshops for museums across the nation. Nearly 200 potential applicants attended the full-day workshops, including many small institutions and those who had not previously applied to IMLS for funding.
- IMLS held two convenings with the grantees of the African American History and Culture grant program and the Native American and Native Hawaiian grant program. A total of 92 grantees from both programs attended the convenings respectively, shared their projects' progress, successes and challenges and learned from their peers.

**Goal 1: Promote Lifelong Learning**—IMLS supports learning and literacy for people of all ages through museums and libraries. Example projects that were recently awarded supporting this goal include:

**Cultural Preservation:** The Jemez Pueblo Community Library & Archives, in partnership with the Jemez Language Team, will be working with young adult tribal members to teach them art of making items that are necessary for participation in traditional Jemez cultural activities, such as ancestral dances and traditional games. These lessons will be digitally archived by the young adult tribal members under the supervision of the Jimenez Language

Team. This effort will serve improve youth participation in tribal activities and maintain Jimenez traditions and ways of life for future generations.

**Addressing Community Crisis:** The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council's Aaniiih Nakoda College Library (ANCL) and its partners will address Fort Belknap's substance abuse crisis. ANCL will provide information resources, educational programming, and outreach activities to build awareness, knowledge, and self-efficacy among community members in the areas of substance abuse prevention and treatment.

**Diversifying the Workforce:** The *Mentored Internships for Diversity* cooperative agreement with the American Library Association's Public Library Association (PLA) will offer another year of its Inclusive Internship Initiative to provide 79 public libraries in 40 states with the opportunity to offer paid, mentored internships to high school students from diverse backgrounds.

**Goal 2: Build Capacity**—IMLS strengthens the capacity of museums and libraries to improve the wellbeing of their communities. Example projects that were recently awarded supporting this goal include:

**Rural Communities:** In 2019, the agency launched Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries, a \$1.2M+ special funding opportunity, which provides funding, and mentorship to small and rural libraries to develop, and implement projects addressing digital inclusion, community memory and school library transformation in localities ranging from urban neighborhoods, rural enclaves and tribal lands. The new funding opportunity led to a substantial number of new applicants and small and rural library grantees.

**Veterans:** The New York Botanical Garden is collaborating with the James J. Peters Veterans Administration Medical Center Resilience and Wellness Center to create a new horticultural therapy intervention for veterans. The Garden will create multi-session programs for veterans that are designed to reduce symptoms of social isolation and foster healthy and active lifestyles. A licensed horticultural therapist will facilitate a series of sessions, each consisting of four weeks of seasonally based activities that include planting, seed starting, watering, weeding, cooking, and nutrition education for up to 300 veterans. The garden will create a scalable program model for other organizations to support veteran populations with wellness opportunities using horticultural resources.

**Wellbeing Impacts:** *Understanding the Social Wellbeing Impacts of the Nation's Libraries and Museums* is underway, and will provide a better understanding on a national level of the conditions under which museums and libraries contribute to quality of life and wellbeing in the communities they serve. This new study focuses on these institutions' essential roles within communities to help them demonstrate the impact of their programs and services.

**Collections Stewardship:** IMLS reached 79 museums in 35 states and territories through its *Collections Assessment for Preservation* (CAP) program, administered by Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. Through this program, IMLS provides small and mid-sized museums with an assessment of the institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as policies and procedures relating to collections care. In order to be responsive to communities impacted by national disasters, CAP provided emergency assistance for museums in Florida, California, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

**Support for Children:** The Imagine Children's Museum is working with community partners to develop the Positive Futures program to support resilience in children who have experienced trauma. The program will focus on two populations—those in kinship care and children who

have an incarcerated parent or loved one. A taskforce of museum staff and community partners will incorporate the experiences learned in a previous pilot program by adding elements to specifically address social emotional and core life skills. The museum will also develop a playbook for other children's museums interested in offering similar programs for their communities.

**Community Memory:** The Jacquith Public Library in Vermont, in partnership with the Marshfield Historical Society, will bring together young adult and older adult residents in mentee/mentor relationships to discuss and capture the Town of Marshfield's past and hopes for the future. Intergenerational dialogues and narratives will be contextualized through artifacts, and photographs from the Historical Society collections, and contributions from interviewees and community members.

**Goal 3: Increase Public Access**—IMLS makes strategic investments that increase access to information, ideas, and networks through libraries and museums. Example projects that were recently awarded supporting this goal include:

**Access to STEM Resources:** In partnership and with significant increased financial support from the Department of Education, IMLS collaborated with the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) to expand the scope and scale of Maker/STEM Education Support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs). Through this program, IMLS enables people of all backgrounds and abilities to discover and use museum collections resources (onsite) by providing tools to train museums and engage underserved youth. Since May 2019, 38 CCLC sites were assigned and 48 CCLC educators trained.

**Library Accessibility:** Syracuse University, in partnership with Infoplease, will address librarians' knowledge and skills gaps related to the design and delivery of services for patrons with disabilities. Funded through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program, will build the capacity of public, and academic librarians: 1) to meet the needs of patrons with disabilities, 2) to train library staff in inclusive and accessible library services to meet the needs of patrons with disabilities.

**Museum Access:** Museums for All, a partnership with the Association of Children's Museums, is a unique access program that enables low-income families to visit museums and build lifelong museum habits. Participating museums offer free or greatly reduced admission fees year-round to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders. The program has progressed since 2014; to date, the program is offered through 459 museums in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and has attracted over 2.2 million visitors.

**International Copyright:** Last year, IMLS was part of an interagency team implementing The Marrakesh Treaty Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which took effect in the United States on May 8, 2019. IMLS participated on a multi-agency team to negotiate the Treaty, which addresses worldwide access barriers, including the lack of accessible works for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. The United States joined 88 other nations who have adopted the Treaty, which has already resulted in a significant increase in the worldwide availability of accessible resources.

**Census 2020:** The agency's Census 2020 collaboration is an example of helping museums and libraries serve as trusted, welcoming spaces for community engagement and dialogue. A

grant to the University of Maryland iSchool (\$101,592) is gathering stakeholders and developing material and training for promoting participation in the 2020 census. Arizona and Utah, for example, are using IMLS Grants to States funds (\$47K and \$16K respectively) for mini-grants to fund additional devices in local libraries to help them prepare for Census 2020.

**Goal 4: Achieve Excellence**—IMLS strategically aligns its resources and relationships to support libraries and museums nationwide.

The agency is examining the outputs of its activities each year leading towards longer term outcomes to support the capacity of museums and libraries nationwide to serve their communities. Following the example of OPM, USAID, and other agencies and funders, IMLS is adopting an approach that articulates the anticipated effects of our various investments. IMLS also looks across its investments in grantmaking, research and data collection, policy, convening's, and publications to find the right mix and balance of risk, reward, effort, and maturity of the concept or approach.

IMLS is focused on employee motivation as a key driver to achieve results. In FY 2021, the agency plans to increase award spending for employees by at least 1% over FY 2020 levels after conducting a review of the annual employee review and incentive process. IMLS has continued its commitment to improving efficiencies in systems and processes while maintaining fiscal responsibility, compliance in grants policy and management, risk management, ethics, and records management programs, among other areas:

**Increased Accountability:** In FY 2019, IMLS received its fourteenth consecutive unmodified opinion with no material weaknesses. This year, the focus was on more efficient measurement, evaluation, and tracking, and as a result, IMLS submitted an FY 2019 Annual Financial Report and an Annual Performance Report to increase accountability and transparency to OMB, Congress, and the American public.

**Risk Mitigation:** IMLS has met or exceeded the Cross-Agency Priority Goal targets for all 10 of the cybersecurity metrics. The Inspector-General Metrics and independent evaluation of the IMLS information security program concluded that IMLS is "Overall: Effective" and "has gone through extensive efforts in securing the organization." In FY 2019, IMLS completed major improvements to significantly strengthen its overall security posture. IMLS has mitigated key risks identified in an independent enterprise-wide IT assessment by migrating its information resources to interagency shared services and FEDRAMP compliant cloud-based services utilizing IaaS and SaaS models.

**Grantmaking Efficiency:** With the launch of a new grants management system in October 2019, IMLS achieved improved efficiencies, customer service, transparency, and reporting for agency analyses. Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities, also provides a more integrated experience for our peer reviewers who are essential to the quality of IMLS grantmaking.

**Nationwide Feedback:** IMLS hosted the annual Grants to States conference, which helps the agency share proven approaches with state library grantees and hear feedback that enhances IMLS programs and services. 75 attendees participated in the April 2019 conference, including 68 representatives from all 50 states, DC, PR, and VI.

**Interagency Collaboration:** Through the National Tribal Broadband Summit on September 23 and 24, 2019, IMLS, with Department of the Interior, Department of Education, and the White House, engaged 250 participants, supported four plenary and seven breakout sessions, and staffed a marketplace of opportunities exhibit hall. The cross-agency partnership and Summit helped promote the value of libraries and museums in addressing broadband/digital inclusion gaps and opportunities.

## VI. Authorizing Framework

The Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) of 2018 was signed into law (PL 115-410) on December 31, 2018 by President Trump. The Act amends 20 USC Chapter 72, the statutory authorization of most IMLS activities, and authorizes appropriations for the Agency through FY 2025. In reauthorizing the MLSA, Congress and the Administration reaffirmed the essential role of the federal government in promoting access to information and educational resources to better serve the people of the United States and cultivate an educated and informed citizenry. The reauthorization also recognizes the special role of museums and libraries in promoting the information and educational needs of a democratic society. The reauthorization language calls upon IMLS to enhance policy research, data collection, analysis and modeling, and evaluation to enhance museum, library, and information services for all Americans. MLSA also authorizes activities to improve the recruitment, preparation, and professional development of museum professionals to preserve our heritage for future generations. The new provisions build upon responsibilities that were previously carried out by the former National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences and the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education.

The agency's programs are also authorized by the National Museum for African American History and Culture Act, 20 USC 80r-5.

This section provides highlights of the Museum and Library Services Act and the African American History and Culture Act.

### **Museum and Library Services Act (Library Services and Technology Act)**

All IMLS library programs support the following goals (20 U.S.C. 9121):

- *To enhance coordination among Federal programs that relate to library and information services;*
- *To facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry;*
- *To encourage resource sharing among all types of libraries for the purpose of achieving economical and efficient delivery of library services to the public;*
- *To promote literacy, education, and lifelong learning and to enhance and expand the services and resources provided by libraries, including those services and resources relating to workforce development, 21st century skills, and digital literacy skills;*
- *To enhance the skills of the current library workforce and to recruit future professionals to the field of library and information services;*
- *To ensure the preservation of knowledge and library collections in all formats and to enable libraries to serve their communities during disasters;*

- *To enhance the role of libraries within the information infrastructure of the United States in order to support research, education, and innovation; and*
- *To promote library services that provide users with access to information through national, State, local, regional, and international collaborations and networks.*

### **LSTA Library Grants to States (20 USC 9141)**

SLAAs may use IMLS funds for statewide initiatives and activities such as:

- *expanding services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats (including new and emerging technology), in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and financial literacy and other types of literacy skills;*
- *establishing or enhancing electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and other organizations for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;*
- *providing training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership, and advance the delivery of library and information services; and enhancing efforts to recruit future professionals, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to the field of library and information services;*
- *developing public and private partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and community-based organizations;*
- *targeting library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;*
- *targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 9902(2) of title 42) applicable to a family of the size involved; and*
- *developing library services that provide all users access to information through local, State, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks.*

### **Library Discretionary Grants**

Through its National Leadership Grants Program (20 USC 9162), Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program (20 USC 9165), and Services for Native Americans and Hawaiians (2 USC 9161), IMLS grants are used for:

- *building workforce and institutional capacity for managing the national information infrastructure and serving the information and education needs of the public;*
- *research and demonstration projects related to the improvement of libraries or the enhancement of library and information services through effective and efficient use of new and emerging technologies, including projects that enable library users to acquire digital*

*literacy skills and that make information resources more accessible and available; and dissemination of information derived from such projects;*

- *conserving, preserving, and digitizing library materials and resources, giving priority to projects emphasizing coordination, optimizing conditions for storage and future use, offering staff training, avoiding duplication, and providing access by researchers beyond the institution or library entity undertaking the project; and*
- *enhancing the ability of libraries to provide services to affected communities in the event of an emergency or disaster through: (1) the development of national, regional, statewide, or local emergency and disaster management plans that address communication and coordination of information and services for affected communities and ensure the preservation of knowledge and library collections; and (2) the implementation of the emergency and disaster management plans described or otherwise enabling libraries to provide services to affected communities in the event of an emergency or disaster.*

### **Museum Discretionary Grants (Museum Services Act)**

All IMLS museum programs support the following goals (20 USC §9171):

- *To encourage and support museums in carrying out their educational role, as core providers of learning and in conjunction with schools, families, and communities;*
- *To encourage and support museums in carrying out their public service role of connecting the whole of society to the cultural, artistic, historical, natural, and scientific understandings that constitute our diverse heritage;*
- *To encourage leadership, innovation, and applications of the most current technologies and practices to enhance museum services through international, national, regional, State, and local networks and partnerships;*
- *To assist, encourage, and support museums in carrying out their stewardship responsibilities to achieve the highest standards in conservation and care of the diverse cultural, historic, natural, and scientific heritage of the United States to benefit future generations;*
- *To assist, encourage, and support museums in achieving the highest standards of management and service to the public, and to ease the financial burden borne by museums as they serve their communities in new and different ways;*
- *To support resource sharing and partnerships among museums, libraries, schools, and other community organizations; and*
- *To encourage and support museums as a part of economic development and revitalization in communities;*
- *To ensure museums of various types and sizes in diverse geographic regions of the United States are afforded attention and support;*
- *To support efforts at the State and regional levels to leverage museum resources and maximize museum services; and*
- *To assist museums in their civic engagement efforts to ensure that every person in the United States has access to high-quality museum services.*

## **Policy Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Modeling, Evaluation, and Dissemination**

Section 9018 of Title 20 authorizes the Director of IMLS to *support and conduct policy research, data collection, analysis and modeling, evaluation, and dissemination of information to carry out the following objectives:*

- *enhance and expand the capacity of museums, libraries, and information services to anticipate, respond to, and meet the evolving needs of communities and the public, including by identifying trends and developments that may impact the need for and delivery of services;*
- *provide information and data on the role, value, and impact of museum, library, and information resources, including the identification of trends and potential gaps in the availability and use of museum and library services by their communities and the public;*
- *measure the effectiveness of museums, libraries, and information services throughout the United States, including the impact of Federal programs;*
- *identify indicators and outcomes that can be used to create enhancements to the efficiency and efficacy of museum, library, and information services;*
- *promote advancement and growth in museum, library, and information services through sharing of best practices and effective strategies in order to better serve the people of the United States;*
- *facilitate planning for, and building of, institutional capacity in order to improve museum, library, and information services at the national, State, local, and regional levels; and international communications and cooperative networks; and*
- *support and enhance collaborative professional networks and consortia that use shared, meaningful, and actionable data analysis and modeling to advance museum, library, and information services and address community needs.*

## **The National Museum of African American History and Culture Act (20 USC 80r-5)**

Under this Act, IMLS is authorized to carry out:

- *a grant program with the purpose of improving operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums;*
- *a grant program with the purpose of providing internship and fellowship opportunities at African American museums;*
- *a scholarship program with the purpose of assisting individuals who are pursuing careers or carrying out studies in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the study of African American life, art, history, and culture.*