

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Guide to Funding Programs and Opportunities

Fiscal Year 2014



Funding Programs

How to Apply

Visit our website, www.imls.gov

The best place to start is our website. Our “Grant Applicants” section provides resources to help grant seekers develop competitive applications, including grant program guidelines and sample 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 and deadlines by name, by eligible institution type, and by project type. Read through the goals of the grant programs to identify the one that best fits your project.

Check eligibility requirements

Eligibility criteria vary by program. Checking the program-specific criteria will help you ensure you’re applying for the right grant for your organization.

Read application guidelines

Read through 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 60-90 days before the program deadline. The FY2013 versions will remain available for reference until the FY2014 guidelines are posted.

Participate in a Webinar

We invite you to participate in a pre-application Webinar to learn more about the program, ask questions, and listen to the questions and comments of other participants. Webinar details are included in the guidelines.

Check your registrations

Submitting a grant application to IMLS is a multi-step 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 your registration with Grants.gov must be up to date. 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 any questions about the grant application and review process. Conversations with program staff can provide useful guidance and help you to explore how your idea may match the goals of a grant program.

Museum Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Description
12/2/13	Museums for America	\$5,000 – \$150,000	Grants support activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, good stewards of the nation's collections, and vital components of livable communities.
12/2/13	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.
12/2/13	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.
12/2/13	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.
12/2/13	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums	\$10,000 – \$25,000	Grants provide an opportunity to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices.

Library Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Description
9/16/13	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.
2/3/14	National Leadership Grants for Libraries	\$50,000 – \$500,000	Grants to libraries and library organizations support projects that improve professional practice beyond the grantee institution.
2/3/14	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries	\$10,000 – \$25,000	Grants provide an opportunity to expand and test the boundaries of library and archive services and practices.
3/3/14	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.
3/3/14	Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants	Up to \$150,000	Grants to federally recognized tribes expand services for learning, access to information, and partnerships.
4/1/14	Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants	Varies	Grants enhance existing or implement new library services in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians.

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 or about how this program works in your state, visit www.ims.gov to find background material and contact information for your state librarian.

Award Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
10/15/13	National Medal for Museum and Library Service	Awards celebrate outstanding museums and libraries that make exceptional contributions to their communities.
TBD	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.

Technical Assistance Programs

Deadline	Program	Description
12/2/13	Conservation Assessment Program, administered by Heritage Preservation	Program provides a general conservation assessment of a museum's collection, environmental conditions, and site.
7/1/13 and 12/2/13	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.

Visit www.ims.gov/grants for detailed program information.

Photos: Cover left: Photo by Cunningham Charlowe, courtesy of Ohio's Columbus Museum of Art. Cover right: photo by Patrick Bennett, courtesy of Washington's King County Library System. Back (Early Learning): Courtesy of California's Rancho Cucamonga Public Library. Back (STEM): Photo by Paul Spect, courtesy of the Boston Children's Museum.

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 support for early learning includes a partnership with the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency Office of Childcare and Office of Headstart, collaborative work with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, and a special report for policy makers. In FY 2014, IMLS will expand this work to support programs that reach children who are not part of formal pre-school programs.



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 FY2014, IMLS will create a funding priority for STEM programming to reach at-risk youth.



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.



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 exceptional contributions to their communities.



WebWise: Many libraries and museums are ahead of the curve, using technology in new and exciting ways to deliver information and engage learners. The WebWise conference helps to leverage innovation and share best practices. WebWise 2014 will be held February 24–26.



Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills: Libraries and museums are essential to learning in the United States. This initiative provides resources and tools to support their role as community anchors that foster creativity, collaboration, communication, and civic literacy.



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

Keep in touch and share your thoughts

Website: www.imls.gov

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

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



@US_IMLS



USIMLS



USIMLS

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

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

E-mail: imlsinfo@imls.gov

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