

Federal Funding for America's Libraries



STATE SNAPSHOT: ILLINOIS

**\$5.7
million**

LSTA funding 2024

36.2 Million+ Public Library Visits

218,000+ Public Programs

87 Million+ Items Circulated

Source: [IMLS](#)



Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)

Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants are administered by the Department of Education and provide books, parent engagement programs, and professional development for school librarians to ensure children are best positioned for success. Increased literacy support for younger readers is strongly linked to improved reading scores and overall academic progress.

PROTECT LIBRARY FUNDING

- Protect the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and provide at least \$232 million for the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) in FY26.
- Protect the U.S. Department of Education and provide at least \$50 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) in FY26.
- Sign the Dear Colleague letters in support of both LSTA and IAL funding for FY26.

In every community across America, libraries advance literacy, school success, and workforce development.

Two key federal programs help libraries make positive impacts in your community:

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

The Library Services and Technology Act is the only source of dedicated federal funding for libraries. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administers LSTA. Every state receives LSTA funding to address local priorities, such as:

- support jobseekers with free career training and certifications
- provide resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- promote reading skills and early literacy; and
- deliver internet access and digital skills classes.



ALA American Library Association

www.ala.org