

**DATE:** April 3, 2025

**TO:** Library Board, Pima County Public Library  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Pima County Administration  
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors  
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

**FROM:** Amber D. Mathewson  
Library Director

**SUBJECT: Director and Support Services Report – March 2025**

**Grant Funding** – IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) was included in an unprecedented executive order that will effectively diminish the IMLS as an agency. The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) will be working with other library-related associations to craft a joint statement. They will hold informational sessions to make government leaders who may not be aware of the challenges of reduced funding given all the issues communities around the country face.

**Library Survey –**

Preliminarily more than 12,000 surveys were started online with a 62% completion rate. Final analysis will be shared as soon as all paper surveys have been tallied.

**Donations FY 25/26**

<b>Deposit Date</b>	<b>RECEIVED FROM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	18,070.65	Books and Jewelry Sales
7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,413.26	April Sales
7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,146.75	May Sales
7/23/24	United Spiritualist Church of Mankind	40.00	Systemwide Donations
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	6,258.06	2nd Quarterly Payment
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,041.41	Book Sales
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Kirk Bear Canyon Library</i>	1,962.81	3rd Quarter Donation
7/26/24	Susan Nimue	10.00	Systemwide Donations
8/6/24	Philip Supina	500.00	DVD Request
8/20/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	3,000.00	Green Valley Library 50th Anniversary
8/30/24	Eric & Shirley Gale	305.00	In Memory of Lila Warner - Book Plates
9/12/24	Anonymous	20.00	Systemwide Donations
9/20/24	Pat A Wernes	20.00	Systemwide Donations
9/24/24	Joanne Gilbert	300.00	Print books by Robert Carr and Sharon Sala
10/4/24	Jorge Gerbracht	18.00	Systemwide Donations

9/27/24	Sahuarita Water Co. LLC	668.81	Refund for over-payment
9/26/24	Glenn W Hitz	200.00	Systemwide Donations
10/17/24	Robert Pew	100.00	For Ajo Library
10/18/24	Christine A. Maglott	50.00	Green Valley
10/24/24	<i>Friends of Bear Canyon Library</i>	2,500.00	Bear Canyon Friends
10/25/24	Leland Powell	60.00	Systemwide Donations
10/28/24	<i>Friends of the Pima County Public Library</i>	60,000.00	Friends of PCPL
11/1/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	6,250.00	3rd Quarterly Payment
11/7/24	Marcia Joan Johnson	20.00	Systemwide Donations
11/15/24	Marco T. Canach (?)	40.00	Systemwide Donations
11/27/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	6,786.48	PCPL Friends Book Shoppe
11/27/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	6,664.98	PCPL Friends Book Shoppe
11/27/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	5,704.50	PCPL Friends Book Shoppe
11/27/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	6,870.14	PCPL Friends Book Shoppe
12/3/24	Rob Pew	100.00	Ajo Library Programs
12/10/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	25,000.00	Plan of Dissolution
12/10/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	6,250.00	4th quarter payment
12/10/24	Rob Pew	150.00	Ajo Library branch
12/13/24	Robert Lees	180.00	In memory of Lin Grimm
12/24/24	Philip Supina	150.00	DVD request
12/31/24	James Morse	20.00	Systemwide Donations
12/31/24	North Family Irrevocable Trust (ACH)	218,875.00	Systemwide Donations
1/2/25	Walter E. Sipes	100.00	In memory of Edna Fiedler
1/10/25	<i>Friends of the Kirk Bear Canyon Library</i>	2,500.00	1st quarter donation
1/16/25	<i>Friends of the Southeast Library (Esmond Station Library)</i>	1,650.36	Esmond Station Friends Donation
1/28/25	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	12,437.20	Book Sales
1/28/25	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library</i>	5,134.90	Book Sales
2/4/25	Paul Smith	100.00	In Memory of Laurie Ann Johnson Smith
2/20/25	Eileen and Bruce Watkins	75.00	In Memory of Laurie Johnson-Smith
2/27/25	Heather MacDonald	100.00	For Nanini Library
3/6/25	<i>Friends of the Pima County Public Library</i>	65,000.00	
3/10/25	Kenneth Johnson	100.00	In Memory of Laurie Ann Johnson Smith
3/10/25	Kathleen Minichello	200.00	In Memory of Laurie Ann Johnson Smith

FY25 Cash/Check donations: \$483,143.31

FY25 Net PayPal donations: \$2,630.55

**FY25 TOTAL donations as of 3/20/2025: \$485,773.86**

**Unexpected Library Closures – none in this reporting period**

## **IMLS Funding – compiled by Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides \$3,566,322.00 to Arizona libraries through its Grants to States program, with approximately \$900,000 distributed annually through competitive LSTA grants via the Arizona State Library. This funding supports essential services including the Writers in Residence program, professional development, the Arizona Memory Project, and specialized community initiatives.

IMLS funding directly impacts our library through programs addressing literacy, youth development, digital access, and services for underserved populations. Notable projects include Community Based Science Kits, Remote Access Lockers implemented during COVID-19, and initiatives supporting historically marginalized communities.

State Grants in Aid funding, which supports programs like the Tucson Festival of Books, is awarded from the Arizona Legislature so the state can qualify for Federal IMLS funding.

If IMLS funding were reduced or eliminated, the impact could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars, affecting both direct services and access to state-level resources. Community members can support IMLS funding by contacting their representatives, sharing personal stories about library impact, and actively using library services. For further information, visit [imls.gov](http://imls.gov) or review our library's annual reports detailing grant-funded projects.

## FAQ

### What is IMLS?

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is a federal agency that provides vital funding through grants to strengthen libraries and museums across the United States.

### How much IMLS funding does Arizona receive?

The Arizona State Library receives \$3,566,322.00 through the IMLS Grants to States program. Of this amount, approximately \$900,000.00 passes through the Arizona State Library through competitive Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to libraries across the state.

### What programs does IMLS fund in Arizona?

IMLS funding supports a broad range of initiatives including LSTA grants, scholarship programs, professional development opportunities, staff training, E-Rate support, the Arizona Memory Project, Connect Arizona Digital Navigators, and participation in the Collaborative Library Summer Program.

### How does IMLS funding impact our library specifically?

Our library has received consistent IMLS funding for programs including Writers in Residence, Southwest Books of the Year community science initiatives, digital access improvements, and specialized services for underserved populations. The funding also supports critical professional development for our staff.

### What would happen if IMLS funding were reduced or eliminated?

The potential impact could be in hundreds of thousands of dollars. Programs like Writers in Residence, specialized outreach services, and professional development opportunities would be at risk. Additionally, we might lose access to state-level resources that are funded through IMLS.

### Is State Grant in Aid funding connected to IMLS?

Yes, State Grants in Aid funding (which supports the Tucson Festival of Books and has supported construction projects at the Sam Lena South Tucson Library) is required by the Arizona Legislature for the state to qualify for Federal IMLS funding. The two funding streams are interconnected.

### How are decisions about IMLS funding made?

IMLS funding is determined by Congressional appropriations. Funding levels are established through the federal budget process and can be influenced by advocacy from library supporters, community members, and elected officials.

### How do libraries get LSTA grants?

Libraries across Arizona compete for approximately \$900,000.00 in LSTA grant funding that passes through the Arizona State Library. These competitive grants fund innovative programs and services that address specific community needs and priorities.

### How can I learn more about IMLS funding?

Visit the IMLS website ([imls.gov](http://imls.gov)), review the State Library's Development Services links which detail grant-funded projects, or speak with our library administration about specific IMLS-funded initiatives at our library.

## Talking Points

### Value of IMLS Funding

"IMLS funding helps our library provide services that directly respond to community needs."

"Federal funding through IMLS ensures that libraries across the country—including ours—can offer innovative programs to everyone, regardless of income or location."

"IMLS grants allow us to pilot new services that we otherwise couldn't afford to try."

"Approximately \$900,000 of Arizona's IMLS funding is distributed through competitive LSTA grants, allowing libraries to develop innovative programs tailored to local needs."

### Community Impact

"Our Writers in Residence program, funded by IMLS, has connected thousands of community members with professional writers for the past decade."

"During the pandemic, IMLS funding helped us create contactless pickup options through Remote Access Lockers."

"IMLS supports our work with underserved populations, including programs for at-risk youth and historically marginalized communities."

### Educational Value

"IMLS funding supports our learning labs for young adults, providing access to technology and creative opportunities."

"Through IMLS grants, we've been able to offer Community Based Science Kits that engage people of all ages in real scientific research."

"Professional development funded by IMLS ensures our staff have the latest skills to serve our community effectively."

#### Economic Impact

"Libraries return over \$4 in value for every \$1 invested. IMLS funding is a smart investment in our community's future."

"IMLS-funded programs help job seekers develop skills and find employment opportunities."

#### Call to Action

"You can help by contacting your representatives and sharing how the library has made a difference in your life, or promote library services to your networks"

#### Specific Examples of IMLS Grant Benefits

##### **Writers in Residence Program (2016-2024)**

This decade-long program has brought professional writers like Logan Philips, Meg Files, and Tom Holm to our libraries, offering free consultations, workshops, and educational opportunities for aspiring writers in our community. The program has served thousands of community members and helped launch numerous writing careers.

##### **Library Collections: Evaluation to Access (2019)**

This project evaluated library collections across all library locations and the bookmobile to identify acquisition gaps, ensuring that collections met the diverse and evolving needs of the communities served.

##### **Library Outpost at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center (2019)**

This project transformed library services for high-risk adjudicated youth by establishing a library outpost within the Pima County Juvenile Court Center, providing targeted resources and support.

##### **Community Based Science Kits (2021)**

These kits allowed community members to participate in real scientific research, collecting valuable data for scientists while learning about scientific methods. The program demonstrated that science is accessible to everyone and potentially opened new career paths for participants of all ages.

##### **Remote Access Lockers (2021)**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IMLS funding enabled us to quickly adapt to community needs by installing contactless pickup lockers. This innovation ensured continued access to physical materials when in-person services were limited, demonstrating our ability to respond to crisis situations.

##### **Our Story - Communities of Color Curation Project (2021)**

This project empowered historically underserved Black community members whose history had been excluded from Pima County and Arizona archives. The initiative preserved valuable cultural heritage and gave voice to marginalized communities, creating a more inclusive historical record.

**Youth Health Action Fund (2022)**

This initiative addressed mental and physical health challenges facing youth in high-poverty areas through literacy, arts, and advocacy opportunities. The program demonstrated how libraries can be partners in community health initiatives, particularly for vulnerable populations.

**101Space Valencia Library (2020)**

This learning lab for young adults provided innovative opportunities for skill development and creativity. The space has become a hub for youth engagement, offering technological access and mentorship that might otherwise be unavailable to many participants.

**Social Services-focused Program Consultation Services (2024)**

Our newest IMLS-funded initiative is developing specialized programs to address mental health, substance use, and poverty-related issues while providing support to library staff working with high-needs patrons. This project demonstrates our commitment to holistic community service and staff development.

**Competitive LSTA Grant Process**

So as you see our library has successfully competed for LSTA grants from the \$900,000 that passes through the Arizona State Library each year.