



Federal Library Funding Is at Risk

Here's What That Means for Illinois Communities

A recent federal executive order proposes eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries. In 2024, IMLS awarded \$266.7 million to libraries and museums across the U.S. — or just 0.003 percent of the federal budget, and 75 cents per capita. A small investment with a big impact.

IMLS funding helps libraries provide essential services such as interlibrary loan, technology access, early literacy programs, and community learning initiatives. Without it, many of these resources could be at risk.



How IMLS Funding Supports Illinois Libraries

In Illinois, IMLS funding helps provide key services and programs that benefit communities across the state. In 2025, Illinois received \$5.7 million in IMLS funding, supporting over 1,700 libraries statewide — making it one of the top six recipients in the nation. Here are a few examples of the ways that IMLS funds are used in Illinois:



Interlibrary Loan

Over 11 million items are shared annually, expanding access to books and materials statewide.



Virtual Programs

Initiatives like Illinois Libraries Present bring high-quality online events to 200+ libraries.



Technology & Research Tools

More than 1,000 libraries use IMLS-funded services like WorldCat for cataloging and research.



Youth & Literacy Support

Programs like Project Next Generation offer tech access and mentoring for at-risk youth.



Staff Development

Funding supports training for library staff and trustees to meet evolving community needs.

How IMLS Funding Supports WNPLD

Interlibrary Loan Delivery - At WNPLD, 24,231 items came in from other libraries and 31,896 items were shared out — connecting readers to what they needed.

Technology & Infrastructure - Grants helped WNPLD upgrade security, improve emergency exits, and enhance programs.

Staffing & Services - IMLS funds supported the addition of a full-time librarian at the Northfield Branch and extra help in The Studio.

Training & Development - Staff benefited from statewide learning opportunities.

Virtual Author Events - Through Illinois Libraries Presents, patrons enjoyed access to nationally recognized authors from home.

FY23–24 OPERATING REVENUES



FY23-24 Operating Revenues

		Amount
Property Taxes	88.8%	\$4,400,384
Interest	5.8%	\$285,234
Kenilworth Library Services Contract	2.6%	\$131,184
Replacement Tax	1.5%	\$76,375
State & Federal Grants	0.6%	\$27,280
Gifts & Donations	0.3%	\$16,265
Fees	0.2%	\$9,280
Miscellaneous	0.1%	\$4,456
TOTAL	100.0%	\$4,950,458

How You Can Help

Supporting your public library is essential because it serves as a cornerstone of community learning, access, and inclusion. Libraries offer free resources that promote literacy, lifelong education, and digital equity—providing books, internet access, educational programs, and safe spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds. By investing in public libraries, we ensure that everyone, regardless of income or status, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect. Supporting your local library not only strengthens individual lives but also builds a more informed, empowered, and cohesive community.

Here are Some Easy Ways You Can Support WNPLD

1

Use your library

Borrow a book, attend an event, or access online resources.



Visit
wnpld.org

2

Donate to your local Friends of the Library group

Help support your local library



Learn about
Friends of the
Library

3

Contact your legislators

Urge them to protect federal library funding



Find your
legislators

Learn More About the Work Libraries are Doing Across Illinois

**Illinois Library
Association
(ILA)**



ila.org/advocacy

**American Library
Association
(ALA)**



ala.org

**Institute of Museum
& Library Services
(IMLS)**



imls.gov

Rails



railslibraries.org

When we invest in libraries, we invest in our future.



Winnetka-Northfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Winnetka Library

768 Oak Street, Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-7220 • eref@wnpld.org

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 9pm
Friday – Saturday: 9am – 5pm
Sunday: 1pm – 5pm

Northfield Library

1785 Orchard Lane, Northfield, IL 60093
(847) 446-5990 • northfieldlibrary@wnpld.org

Monday – Thursday: 8am – 8pm
Friday: 8am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm
Sunday: 1pm – 5pm