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[Lib.Staff] Update from the Vermont Department of Libraries re: IMLS Funding

1 message

Delneo, Catherine <Catherine.Delneo@vermont.gov>

Thu, May 8, 2025 at 3:28 PM

Dear Vermont Library Community,
I'm writing with to provide a updates related to the federal executive order 14238, titled *Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy* that was issued by the president on March 14, 2025.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

Since I last provided an update on April 24, 2025, rulings have been issued on two legal cases related to the Executive Order:

On 05/06/25 District Court Judge John J. McConnell Jr. issued a preliminary injunction on executive order 14238 in response to a suit brought by Vermont and 20 other states saying "that the order violated the Administrative Procedure Act." <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/06/nx-s1-5388902/library-funding-cuts-trump-injunction>

On 05/01/25 A federal judge granted a temporary restraining order pausing the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services per executive order 14238. This ruling in response to a lawsuit brought by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees stops the federal administration from taking further action against IMLS while the case is heard in court. This lawsuit is separate from the case brought by 21 states related to the same executive order. <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/97715-r-i-district-court-grants-preliminary-injunction-in-impls-case.html>

As I shared previously, the Department received notice of Vermont's partial Grants to States Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on 04/23/25. This partial award notice was issued while IMLS awaited its final apportionment from the Office of Management and Budget. Yesterday evening, 05/07/25, IMLS staff communicated another update via email, saying that while their final apportionment has not yet been issued, "we do plan to issue the remainder of the FY 2025 awards to states, which will bring them to levels similar to last year's allotments. We hope to make the supplemental awards this month and will provide the FY 2025 allotment table at that time."

This is a positive outcome as the Grants to States award from IMLS comprises 1/3 of the Department's total budget and is essential to the services the Department provides statewide. The Department is hopeful that it will ultimately receive the full expected Grants to States allotment from IMLS in an amount will be similar to Vermont's total 2024 Grants to States allotment of \$1.24M. We will provide another update at the point when we receive a full award notice from IMLS.

Sincerely,

Catherine

Catherine Delneo | State Librarian & Commissioner of Libraries

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