

# Institute of Museum and Library Services Grants in NC

The “[Continuing the Reduction of Federal Bureaucracy](#)” Presidential Executive Order from March 14, 2025 impacts funding and support available from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The order calls for “non-statutory components and functions” of the specified federal entities, “shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by the law.”

## Museum and Library Services Act

Currently, the [Museum and Library Services Act](#) that was signed into law in 2018 by President Trump remains in effect and requires specific programs within Institute of Museum and Library Services (“IMLS”) to continue through September 30, 2025. The Museum and Library Services Act requires reauthorization beyond September 30, 2025 for IMLS programs to continue.

## Grants to States/Library Services and Technology Act funds in North Carolina

The Grants to States/Library Services and Technology Act funding is a block grant award administered to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories to operate statewide library services.

IMLS administered \$5,089,381 in formula funding to the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (“DNCR”) in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Most of these funds go to statewide projects and some go to local communities through a competitive grant program for libraries to address local needs. Here are a few of the ways these funds benefited North Carolina communities:



Supporting the [NC Cardinal online catalog and resource sharing system](#) used by 63% of North Carolina’s 84 public library systems, covering 66 counties. North Carolina residents check out 932,665 items every month from 234 locations. An average of 51,456 items are transferred between library systems to fill community requests each month, maximizing cost effectiveness of materials.



\$2,527,641 were awarded through **local grants** in North Carolina, supporting projects in 24 public libraries, 12 academic libraries, and 3 other organizations that support community needs.



**Improving digital skills** in communities across the state by providing access to the NorthStar Digital Literacy online tool (with digital skills assessments and curriculum) to all 84 public library systems serving North Carolina’s 100 counties.



**Digitizing and providing online access** to over 669,000 historical items from all 100 counties in North Carolina from 354 libraries, archives, schools, and cultural heritage organizations across North Carolina through the [North Carolina Digital Heritage Center](#) (digitalnc.org). Support is also provided for the digitization of government publications, including past editions of the North Carolina General Statutes, for access through the [NC Digital Collections](#).

Additional information about the Grants to States/Library Services and Technology Act grants administered by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources are used and how they benefit communities, may be found **here:** <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lsta-federal-funding-north-carolina>

## IMLS Funds in North Carolina

Over \$7.2 million in funds were awarded to North Carolina institutions by IMLS just in the past year. In addition to the \$5,089,381 that came to the Grants to States/Library Services and Technology Act grants, an additional \$2,112,307 was awarded to North Carolina institutions. This year, \$374,263 went to NCDNCR Museums, Aquariums, and Historic Sites.

In the past five years, 36 competitive IMLS awards were made to public and private museums across North Carolina, totaling \$4,074,834.

In North Carolina, cultural venues generate \$2.23 billion in economic activity through heritage tourism. On a national level, cultural venues generate \$50 billion into the U.S. economy.

**For more information, see <https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants>**

### IMLS Grants awarded in North Carolina in the past year

Institution	Program	Funds	City
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science)	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	\$386,469	Chapel Hill
North Carolina Aquariums (North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island)	Museums for America	\$249,970	Raleigh
Ava Gardner Museum	Inspire! Grants for Small Museums	\$24,936	Smithfield
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Information, Library, and Research Sciences (ILRS))	National Leadership Grants - Libraries	\$149,706	Greensboro
Greenville Museum of Art	Inspire! Grants for Small Museums	\$75,000	Greenville
University of North Carolina General Administration	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	\$142,782	Chapel Hill
Blowing Rock Art & History Museum	Inspire! Grants for Small Museums	\$23,500	Blowing Rock
Marbles Kids Museum	Museums for America	\$244,906	Raleigh
Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$330,800	Durham
Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$100,000	Charlotte
Historic Hillsborough Commission (Burwell School Historic Site)	Inspire! Grants for Small Museums	\$9,950	Hillsborough
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science)	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	\$374,288	Chapel Hill
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies	\$5,089,381	Raleigh