



EAST KINGSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Executive Order Reducing the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and its Impact on New Hampshire Library Users

An executive order was issued on March 14th, 2025, that called for the reduction and elimination of many functions in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS is an independent government agency that supports all 50 states and U.S. territories. Although it is not accurate to state that any particular funding or program will be cut, it is important to know that certain services/positions are currently funded with federal funds via IMLS. The executive order will have an impact on East Kingston Public Library patrons; some programs under greatest threat are our interlibrary loan services, and our digital resources, like Libby.

In our state, the New Hampshire State Library currently has \$1.5 million of IMLS money to fund a number of programs, but most notably the interlibrary loan program (ILL), including the online catalog and van service to support it. The ILL system is funded almost exclusively by IMLS funding and is a vital service for East Kingston residents.

In 2024, the East Kingston Public Library **loaned out 1,347 items to other libraries** using the ILL service, and **borrowed 1,635 items from other libraries** to support the needs of our patrons.

The State Library also uses IMLS money to provide you with Talking Book services, and Libby, our eBook, eAudio and digital magazine platform. In 2024, **East Kingston borrowed over 5,500 titles through Libby**. Without the IMLS money, in order for Libby to continue being a resource for NH residents, the increase in cost will be divided up amongst local libraries, resulting in budget increases to maintain the existing services.

We rely on federal funding to share resources that alone, we could not afford.

What does this mean for you?

This funding, if not available, will dramatically affect the above mentioned services that we currently provide to our patrons, crippling the collaboration between New Hampshire libraries and reducing access to materials that our library patrons would not otherwise have access to.

How can you help?

If you object to the elimination of these funds and the functions of IMLS that are specifically used to serve you, the public, we highly encourage you to learn more as to why IMLS and the funds provided are critical, and how it will severely impact the many residents who rely on these valuable services, not only in our city, but around the State.

Thank you for supporting the power of libraries and as we learn more we will keep you posted with updates and other ways to help.

Zoe Sucu, Library Director
Board of Trustees, East Kingston Public Library
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