

Photo Credit:
San Mateo Public Libraries, San Mateo, CA

GUIDE TO IMLS LIBRARY GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2027 - Discretionary Programs

How to Apply for a Grant

1 Explore Available Grants

Visit **www.imls.gov** to review grant program descriptions, applicant webinars, and resources designed to help you prepare a competitive application.

2 Confirm Eligibility

Eligibility requirements vary by program. Review the specific criteria to ensure your institution qualifies for the grant you intend to pursue.

3 Review the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)

NOFOs provide official details on funding opportunities. Read them thoroughly for information on application requirements and review criteria.

4 Contact a Program Officer

Conversations with Office of Library Services program staff can help you explore how your idea may match the goals of a grant program. Contact our staff via email at imls-librarygrants@imls.gov.

5 Submit Your Application via Grants.gov

All applications must be submitted through **www.grants.gov**. Ensure your institution has an active SAM.gov registration and current Grants.gov account well before the application deadline.

*IMLS is a federal agency that serves as the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. All grant programs are subject to the availability of funds and IMLS discretion. Additional funding opportunities may become available throughout the year. Please visit **www.imls.gov** for updates.*

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Library Grant Programs

IMLS is committed to advancing, supporting, and empowering America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. In doing so we provide grants to a variety of institutions.

To learn more, please refer to the IMLS Website: **www.imls.gov/grants/apply-grant**. The FY 2027 Notices of Funding Opportunity are not yet available. We anticipate releasing them in late summer 2026 with a deadline of November 13, 2026.

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Grants support projects that develop a workforce of librarians and archivists that meet the information needs of their communities by enhancing the training and professional development of library and archives professionals; developing faculty and library leaders; and recruiting, educating, and retaining the next generation of library and archives professionals.

Award Amount: $25,000–$1,000,000
Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

National Leadership Grants for Libraries

Grants support projects of national impact that address critical needs of the library and archives fields and have the potential to advance practice in these professions. Successful proposals will generate results such as new tools, research findings, models, services, or practices will be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment.

Award Amount: $25,000–$1,000,000
Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

Native American Library Services Basic Grants

Grants are non-competitive and available for up to $10,000 to federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Corporations. They are available to assist Native American tribes in improving core library services for their communities.

Award Amount: $6,000–$10,000
Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants

Grants are competitive and available to federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Corporations. They are available to assist Native American tribes in sustaining and improving library services with their communities.

Award Amount: $50,000–$150,000
Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

Native Hawaiian Library Services

Grants are competitive and available to assist Native Hawaiian libraries in sustaining and improving library services with their communities.

Award Amount: $50,000–$150,000
Application Due Date: November 13, 2026

Become a Grant Peer Reviewer

All proposals submitted for IMLS competitive awards are reviewed by library professionals with experience and expertise in all areas of library work. Peer reviewers dedicate their time and expertise to advance the highest professional practices in the field.

To apply to become a reviewer visit: www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review.

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