

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

On Friday, March 14, 2025, an executive order was issued calling for the reduction and elimination of key functions of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal agency that supports libraries and museums across all 50 states and U.S. territories. This decision will have a significant impact on residents of New Ipswich and communities throughout New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire State Library currently receives federal funding through IMLS to support critical services, including:

- [Interlibrary Loan \(ILL\)](#) – allowing libraries to share materials with one another.
- [Talking Books](#) – providing access to books for individuals unable to read standard print.
- [Libby](#) – the digital platform for eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines.

In 2024, the New Ipswich Library loaned approximately **800 books** to other libraries through the ILL program and borrowed **600** in return. Our patrons checked out nearly **2,800 audiobooks, 1,300 eBooks, and 300 digital magazines** through Libby.

### **What Does This Mean for You?**

Without IMLS funding, these essential services would be dramatically affected. The ability to borrow materials from other libraries would be severely limited, reducing access to books and other resources that patrons rely on. Additionally, digital lending through Libby could be scaled back, making it harder for residents to access reading materials in various formats.

### **How Can You Help?**

If you oppose the elimination of IMLS funding, we strongly encourage you to take action:

- [Contact your Congressional representatives](#) to express why this funding is essential and how its loss would impact New Hampshire residents.
- [Sign the petition](#) through EveryLibrary to show your support for libraries nationwide.

Libraries are a cornerstone of education, access, and community connection—your voice can help protect these vital resources!