

NJSL Statement on IMLS - April 1, 2025

On Friday March 14, 2025, an Executive Order was issued that severely reduces the functioning of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). On March 31, 2025 all IMLS staff were placed on a 90 day administrative leave.

NJSL annually receives approximately \$4.5million from IMLS through the Grants to States program. A total of 17.5 FTE (20 people) at NJSL are in Grants to States program-related jobs, working on large and smaller scale initiatives that include:

- The **Talking Book and Braille Center (TBBC)** is the only NJ library geared exclusively to serving the state's Blind and print-disabled population. Services are provided directly to almost 13,000 TBBC patrons and to other eligible residents through the state's public libraries. TBBC is fully funded with Federal Grants to States funds.
- **JerseyConnect** provides a range of backbone integrated technology services to 350+ libraries in the state such as internet and managed WiFi services, email hosting, network access and cloud services at no cost to the libraries. JerseyConnect serves libraries in all 21 counties and covers 80% of the state's population. While the technology used by JerseyConnect itself is funded with state Library Network funds, Grants to States funds 3 highly skilled technical FTE who run the program.
- **Online databases** purchased with Grants to States funds are used in public, academic, and K-12 libraries throughout the state. The resources are also available to any New Jersey resident through geolocation. In calendar year 2024, these resources were searched 42,069,786 times.

See page 2 for an outline of how funds are currently being used. In addition, NJSL received a \$748,588 discretionary grant to develop resources and training related to NJ's emerging K12 information literacy standards that has activities planned through September 2026.

If you would like to discuss the situation, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am also happy to attend meetings to address staff, trustees or other interested parties. I can be reached at jnelson@njstatelib.org or 609-278-2640 x101.

Jen Nelson
State Librarian



New Jersey State Library – Grants to States Program
LSTA Grant Year 2024 Budget
10/1/23 - 9/30/25

	GY24/ FFY Budget
Talking Book and Braille Center	\$1,743,500
State Library Technology - Databases	\$1,715,240
Subscriptions	\$26,000
Digital Literacy	\$40,000
State Library Technology Services:	
JerseyConnect	\$569,090
Library Support Services	\$232,334
	\$801,423
Total Direct Costs	\$4,326,163
Indirect Costs	\$180,257
	\$4,506,420
Total GY 2024 Budget	\$4,506,420