



Whitefield Public Library

March 13, 2025

Dear Whitefield Public Library patrons,

In an Executive Order signed last week, President Donald Trump has called for the defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS), the federal agency charged with distributing congressionally approved funds to state libraries and to library, museum, and archives programs.

We want to let you know how this may impact our library patrons here in Whitefield. The federal funds from this agency fund the New Hampshire Inter-Library Loan (ILL) system, the van drivers, administrative staff, and computer software used to order items.

Losing this service will impact our community, patrons, and library. In 2024, our library borrowed 1146 items and lent out 516 through ILL. Inter-Library Loan is an important service, especially for small libraries that have small budgets. We also rely on ILL for books for book groups.

Also funded with IMLS funds is the platform for the Libby app used for e-books and audiobooks, as well as Talking Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In 2024 our library patrons checked out 652 e-books, 1162 audiobooks, and 548 periodicals via the Libby app. If these funds are cut, these services will go away.

With ILL and Libby circulation combined, these services provided \$47,352 worth of resources for our community members alone (ALA Library Value Calculator). We cannot even begin to afford these resources on our own. That's why sharing between libraries and accessing digital materials are critical to our ability to function.

We want to continue to provide our patrons with the books and resources they ask for, but without these funds, we will no longer be able to do so. If you value the Inter-Library Library Loan system and/or the Libby program, we encourage you to reach out to our elected officials and voice your concerns. A link to do so is included [here](#) and on our website.

Courtney Washaw, Director

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