



CT State Library

Office of the State Librarian

March 27, 2017

To: Connecticut State Library Board

From: Kendall F. Wiggin
State Librarian

RE: Impact of *America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again* on Libraries in Connecticut

On March 16, 2017, President Donald Trump proposed a budget (*America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again*) for discretionary spending in federal Fiscal Year 2018. It detailed proposed spending by department, amounting to an overall 10% increase in defense spending and a 10% decrease in non-defense outlays. The proposed budget calls for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS). Over the years these programs have funded a variety of projects in libraries, museums, and archives across Connecticut. The State Library receives annual funding from IMLS under the Grants to States program as part of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and has been the direct beneficiary of several NEH and IMLS grants.

For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)2016, the State Library received \$2,022,715.00 in LSTA funds. The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) and allotments to the states under the Grants to States program have not been set for FFY 2017, however we recently received a partial allotment.

The LSTA funds are administered by the Division of Library Development (DLD). The elimination of these funds would directly affect most core DLD projects and services including LSTA sub-grants; resource sharing; the Library for the Blind and Handicapped; continuing education; and collection support .

17 State Library staff positions would be eliminated, which because of employee bumping rights would have ramifications across the State Library.

Specific Impacts:

Division of Library Development

Resource Sharing

Consultants – 2 federally funded staff positions

One Resource Sharing Consultant is responsible for:

- The onsite management of the Middletown Library Service Center
- Project management of the statewide catalog project
- Interlibrary loan oversight and management
- Support DLD Director in management of delivery system
- researchIT usage statistics
- Managing multiple DLD listservs
- Supporting professional development scheduling
- Consulting in areas of specialty
- Liaison activities

One Resource Sharing Consultant is responsible for:

- Coordinating the statewide library catalog
- Cataloging support for participating libraries (billing, updates, training)
- Coordinating digital newspaper project
- Supporting DLD Director on various community partner projects – financial literacy and veterans services
- Supporting professional development
- Supporting Division communications
- Consulting in areas of specialty
- Liaison activities

DeliverIT CT – The LSTA funded portion of the statewide delivery service funds:

- 5 of the 10 route drivers
- 1 part time sorter
- 11 state leased delivery vans
- Motor vehicle fuel and maintenance
- Supplies (replacement bins and plastic bags, handcarts and other supplies)

Literacy, Education, Lifelong Learning:

Supplemental Collections

Federal Funding supports one staff member who is responsible for management of collections which support and enhance library collections for public and school libraries as well as a large print collection which supports patrons for the Library for the Blind and Physically handicapped as well as supplementing collections for public libraries that cannot afford these materials.

Library Materials:

- Large Print Collection
- Children's Collection – supports early literacy programs in public libraries and schools that have limited or no library at all to support reading and other curriculums
- Subscriptions – supports professional development journals for continuing education; administrative; space planning and other needs of all CT libraries
- Supplies – supplies and materials required for the processing and maintenance of collections
- Professional development collection includes all ALA professional development materials along with selected materials from a variety of professions to support the needs of librarians and trustees

Professional Development:

Federal funds are allocated to support professional development workshops, programs; training for all CT librarians to ensure that librarians maintain level of skill sets expected of the profession to better serve their libraries and communities. Skills range from administration of libraries; space planning; RDA cataloging; community needs assessment; legal research; financial, health, civic, digital, adult literacy; YA and Children's programming to support literacy and Core curriculums; personnel management; forecasting of trends; customer service; and so many more. Libraries do not have the resources to offer their own professional development that is essential for the constant evolution of librarianship. The State Library is the primary resource for professional development for librarians in Connecticut.

Consulting and DLD Administration:

LSTA funds key DLD consultants and critical support tools (including in- state travel for liaison consultants; professional development training; subscriptions to operational software) for the Division.

Statewide Data Coordinator – federally funded - responsible for:

- Coordinating all public library data collection and reporting for the federal Public Library Data survey
- Consulting on and creating tools for the use of library statistics for advocacy
- Administering the borrowIT CT (Connecticard) program
- Administering the public library construction grant program
- Being a Library liaison and consultant in area of expertise
- Managing the DLD Libguides resource tool for libraries

Children's and Young Adult Coordinator – federally funded - responsible for:

- Consulting in the areas of early and young adult literacy providing service to public and school librarians and libraries
- Administering the Summer Reading program
- Developing literacy tools and initiatives for children's and young adult librarians
- Offering specialized consulting to school media specialists including managing the children's and young adult collections supporting Common Core, early literacy and other literacy projects
- Providing specialized consulting in collection management
- Developing specialized reading lists used across the country

Summer Reading

LSTA Funds support key early literacy activities for public and school libraries:

- Collaborative Summer Reading Membership and manuals for all 169 public libraries

- Evanced Summer Reading software program available to all public libraries providing data gathering capability for State Library critical to measuring early and continuing literacy measures

LSTA Administrator – federally funded - responsible for:

- Working with DLD Director to administer LSTA program (budget, reports, statistics)
- Coordinating LSTA sub-grants
- Coordinating State Library fiber grant project
- Supporting professional development activities
- Providing specialized consulting

Middletown Library Service Center

LSTA funds are used for maintenance; cleaning; supplies; office equipment lease

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

LBPH is a network library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress. The Library provides a free mail loan of recorded and braille books and magazines and necessary playback equipment to eligible state residents unable to read conventional print because of a visual or physical disability. Last year LBPH served 5,482 Connecticut residents and 156 institutions with a total circulation of 182,360.

LBPH Staff - 4 staff positions (out of 8 total staff positions) are federally funded positions and are responsible for:

- Providing readers advisory service
- Circulation and collection management

Connecticut State Library Current and Applied For Federal IMLS and NEH Grants

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

Grants to States	\$ 2,022,715.00
Sparks Ignition Grant (improving access to local history collections with a pilot program to train local historical societies and libraries on creating finding aids)	25,000.00
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (Applied For)	\$ 410,000

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

National Digital Newspaper Program (Phase II) - digitizing historically significant Connecticut newspapers which will be included in the Library of Congress' Chronicling America project	\$ 250,000.00
Previous grant (Phase I)	\$ 274,034
Applied (Phase III)	\$ 321,680