

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS): FUNDING

Request:

We urge Congress to support \$50 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Office of Museum Services for FY10 – a \$15 million increase over FY10 – as Congress considers the FY 2011 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Introduction:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary federal agency responsible for supporting the nation's 17,500+ museums. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants to museums to support them as institutions of learning and exploration, and keepers of our cultural, historical, and scientific heritages. OMS supports all types of museums – including aquariums, arboretums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, historic sites, history museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, science & technology centers, zoological parks, and other specialty museums. IMLS funding – which is determined annually by Congress – provides grants to museums in a number of areas including educational programming, professional development, and collections management.

Talking Points:

- Americans view museums as one of the most important resources for educating our children and as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information. This credibility stems, in part, from the solid foundation research and collections provide for exhibitions and educational programs.
- Museums are not only valuable educational resources for our children, but for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Museums stimulate and promote lifelong learning.
- There are 850 million visits per year to American museums. There are an estimated 542 million visits via the Internet.
- More than one-third (35%) of museums are free to the public, and of those museums that do charge, 98 percent offer special discounts and nearly 62 percent have free admission days.
- Teachers, students, and researchers are benefiting from access to trustworthy information through online collections and exhibits, although most museums need more help in developing their digital collections to meet this need. This is especially important when geographical distances prevent travel to a wide range of museums.
- Museums spend more than \$1 billion annually on educational programming, and receive approximately 90 million visits each year from school students.

- The 2005 *Heritage Health Index* concluded that immediate action is needed to prevent the loss of 190 million artifacts that are in need of conservation treatment.
 - 59% have collections damaged by light
 - 56% have insufficient security to protect their collections
 - 80% do not have an emergency plan that includes collections
 - 71% need additional training and expertise for staff caring for collections
 - only 13% have access to endowment funds for preservation
- Collections – including artifacts and specimens – play a vital role in the preservation and interpretation of cultural and natural heritage.

Status:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 (H.R. 3288), which included FY2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations and level (\$35 million) funding for the Office of Museum Services, became Public Law (111-117) on December 16, 2009.

Funding History:

Office of Museum Services

	FY 2003 enacted	FY 2004 enacted	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 enacted	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 enacted	FY 2009 enacted	FY 2010 enacted
Appropriation <i>(in millions)</i>	\$25.1	\$27.3	\$30.3	\$31.8	\$31.8	\$31.7	\$35.0	\$35.2