

The Library Stabilization Fund Act

COVID-19 is causing significant financial losses for libraries, resulting in disruption to core library services, thousands of staff furloughs and layoffs across the country. Fiscal stabilization is needed to preserve crucial library services for students, jobseekers, rural and Tribal residents, and small businesses—now and in the recovery to come.

The Library Stabilization Fund Act would establish a \$2 billion fund to address financial losses and bolster library services, with priority to the hardest-hit communities. Delivered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the funding would provide:

- \$1.7 billion to be distributed to local libraries through state library agencies based on state population, with a minimum of \$10 million to each state
- \$45 million in formula grants to Tribal libraries
- \$200 million in competitive grants to strengthen library services to communities affected by COVID-19
- \$40 million for IMLS to administer grants and conduct research and data collection related to the impacts of COVID-19

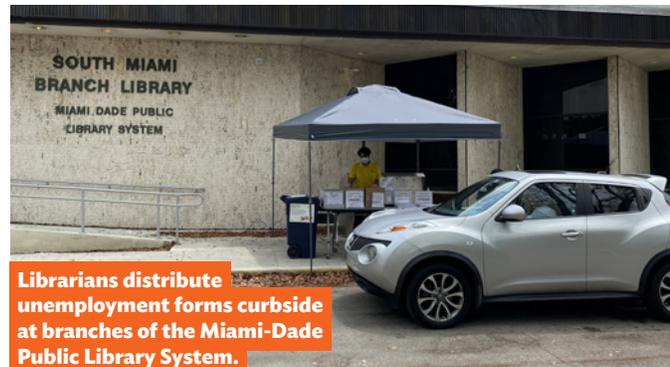
Funds would keep nearly 370,000 library workers on the job, defray costs related to safe re-opening, and support a range of library services to millions of patrons, including:

- High-speed internet access and digital literacy training
- Resources to facilitate remote learning for educators and students of all ages
- Tools and guidance for entrepreneurs to research emerging markets, design business plans and launch startups
- Employment assistance, from resume writing to job search to GED certification
- Support in applying for veteran's benefits, unemployment assistance, medical coverage and other government services
- Programs that foster early literacy, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning

The legislation was introduced on July 2 by Sen. Jack Reed (RI) and Rep. Andy Levin (MI-9).



Veterans connect to the VA telehealth portal at Pottsboro (Texas) Area Library.



Librarians distribute unemployment forms curbside at branches of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.



Librarians manufacture PPE in Los Angeles Public Library's Octavia Lab.