

Teens & Libraries: Action Items for 2017 National Library Legislative Day

We need you! Please phone, email, Tweet, fax or visit Congressional Offices May 2 about these key issues & encourage others to do the same.

- To send an email, make a call or Tweet, visit this page for contact information and ready to use messages: <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/home>
- To send a fax, use Resistbot: <https://resistbot.io/>

1. Innovative Approaches to Literacy:

- By law, at least half of the money from this federal program must be allocated to a competitive grant program for underserved school libraries.
- Over 60 studies show a correlation between well-stocked, professionally staffed school libraries and increased student achievement. For more information about how school libraries are a vital part of ensuring student success visit www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/resources

***How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to fund this program at \$27 million for FY18. Give examples of how school librarians in your community have made a positive impact on students. For more information and resources visit: <http://ow.ly/j6Oc30alhxi>*

2. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA):

- Every fiscal year, Congress provides funding for LSTA in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. These federal resources help target library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to people with limited literacy skills.
- Visit this web page <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/state-details-2014> for details about how much LSTA funding your state receives and other facts about your state's libraries

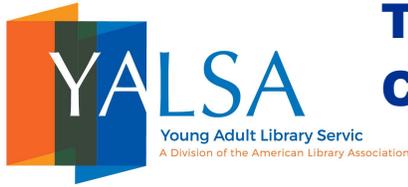
***How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to support funding for LSTA in FY18 at \$186.6 million so libraries can provide programs to patrons, such as career training, mentoring & homework help. Give examples of how LSTA funds helped your library meet the needs of your community. For further information and talking points visit <http://ow.ly/P2Gh30alhmY>*

3. #SaveIMLS

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the only federal agency whose focus is libraries. They provide about \$210 million in funding per year to the nation's libraries, including LSTA mentioned above, but also via competitive grants. The White House budget for FY18 proposes the total elimination of IMLS and federal funds for libraries.

***How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to oppose defunding IMLS. Give examples of how your library's patrons have benefited from programs or services funded by the IMLS. For further information and talking points visit www.ala.org/fight-for-libraries*

For more about legislation affecting libraries & how you can help, visit www.ala.org/nlld



Talking Points: Libraries Provide Critical Services to Teens

Key Challenges

- 66% of the nation's 8th graders are not proficient in reading and math (source: National Assessment of Educational Progress)
- The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and cigarette (source: Afterschool Alliance)
- The number of unemployed youth ages 16-24 is 22.7%, an all-time high (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The Solution

Leverage the nation's network of 17,000+ public libraries and 80,000+ school libraries to help teens succeed in school and prepare for college, careers and life. Libraries have a strong track record of providing a variety of key services that meet the needs of teens, including:

Workforce Development

Preparing teens for the workforce is a major concern. In the last thirty years, the skills required for young adults to succeed in the workforce have changed drastically, but the skills emphasized in schools have not kept up with these changes. 87% of public libraries offer services and programs for teens, including career planning and computer skills. Additionally, libraries recruit teens to work as interns and staff, helping them build practical job skills. (source 2012 Public Library Association PLDS Statistical Report)

Digital Equity

52% of households below the poverty level do not have high speed Internet access, and in many of these homes the family shares a single laptop or computer. Libraries not only provide youth with a place to get online, but also access to newer digital resources and adults who can help youth learn how to use digital tools responsibly for educational and recreational pursuits. (source: "Technology for All? Technology and Learning for Lower Income Families," Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, 2016)

Traditional Literacy

97% of public libraries have dedicated a section of their library for teen books and materials. Librarians are trained experts who can match the right book to the right teen, whether he or she is a struggling reader, an English language learner, or developmentally disabled. (source 2012 Public Library Association PLDS Statistical Report)

Year-Round Learning

A 2010 study from Dominican University showed that students who participated in a public library summer reading program scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those who did not participate. During the school year 66% of public libraries make visits to area schools and 37% share collections or online resources with schools. These collaborations help teens continue learning and building key skills beyond the school day.

For additional advocacy resources visit www.ala.org/yalsa/advocacy