

# ALA Advocacy Delivers



## A Voice for Libraries in a Time of Need

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries have leaned into their role as community anchors, ensuring equitable access to information and filling critical gaps in connectivity. **Thanks to ALA advocacy, Congress has supported libraries with record levels of emergency funding and increased annual appropriations for federal library programs.**

### Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act

- **\$50 million** for national grants and funding to state libraries, distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), for COVID-19 response and digital inclusion

### Consolidated Appropriations Act

- **\$3.2 billion** for the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program, providing low-income individuals with internet access
- **\$1 billion** for grants to expand access to and adoption of broadband on tribal lands
- **\$2 million** increase in annual appropriations for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)—the eighth consecutive increase for annual IMLS funding

### Infrastructure & Investment Jobs Act

- **\$2.75 billion** for the Digital Equity Act, providing funding for national and state-level digital inclusion programs
- **\$43.45 billion** for broadband deployment, including libraries and other institutions

### American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- **\$200 million** to IMLS for digital inclusion and COVID-19 recovery, with a \$2 million minimum distributed to each state—the largest single investment in the agency's 25-year history
- **\$7.17 billion** for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) through the FCC for loaning hotspots, devices, and providing internet access to patron's homes
- **\$10 billion** to US Treasury for capital improvement projects, including broadband deployment to libraries and other anchor institutions

### Public Service Loan Forgiveness\*

- **Thousands of dollars** in federal student loan forgiveness for many library workers previously denied eligibility

► **To help continue these legislative victories in the future, join our winning team and sign-up as an [ALA Advocate!](#)**

