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!

*Application deadline October 31, 2022