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

Budget Reconciliation*

- $4 billion proposed in additional funding for the FCC’s ECF program

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

*Pending as of November 2021