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IMLS funding & SWAN

The recent news about the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) undergoing some sort of dismantling under the current federal administration has resulted in some questions in how it impacts SWAN.

The answer is that SWAN receives no funding directly from IMLS. SWAN revenue is supported by membership fees, investments, and the RAILS LLSAP grant.

The LLSAP (Local Library System Automation Program) grant is allocated within the RAILS budget, which has been \$2.25 million annually for the total grant for the past several budgets. This grant budget is apportioned to each of the six LLSAP permitted to apply, which are CCS, PrairieCat, Rock River Library Consortium, Pinnacle Library Cooperative, Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA), and SWAN. For the upcoming year, SWAN will receive \$501,397 from the RAILS LLSAP grant, which is given to each public library in SWAN as a \$5,223 discount on membership fees.

Within the context of RAILS and SWAN budgets, and concerns about federal funding impact on Illinois library grants and services, it is worth noting that both RAILS and SWAN have reserve funds available if operating budgets are impacted:

- SWAN has 7.5 months operating in reserve
- RAILS has 24 months operating in reserve

The Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) met in November and discussed the overall appropriations for grants and services to libraries in Illinois. This committee represents all library types in Illinois, and the committee was informed that \$5.7 million in Federal funding supports the \$51 million budget total for all Illinois library services and grants, so 10% of funding is Federal IMLS. It is too early to tell how the IMLS funding will change for Illinois library services, but the direction of Governor Pritzker's office is to (1) proceed as usual unless directed otherwise, and (2) comply with Illinois law.

I am a member of the ILA Public Policy Committee and will make sure to keep SWAN Board informed of any news regarding statewide library funding. Please follow advocacy efforts from [RAILS and the Illinois Library Association as it pertains to IMLS support](#).

Regards,

Aaron Skog, SWAN Executive Director