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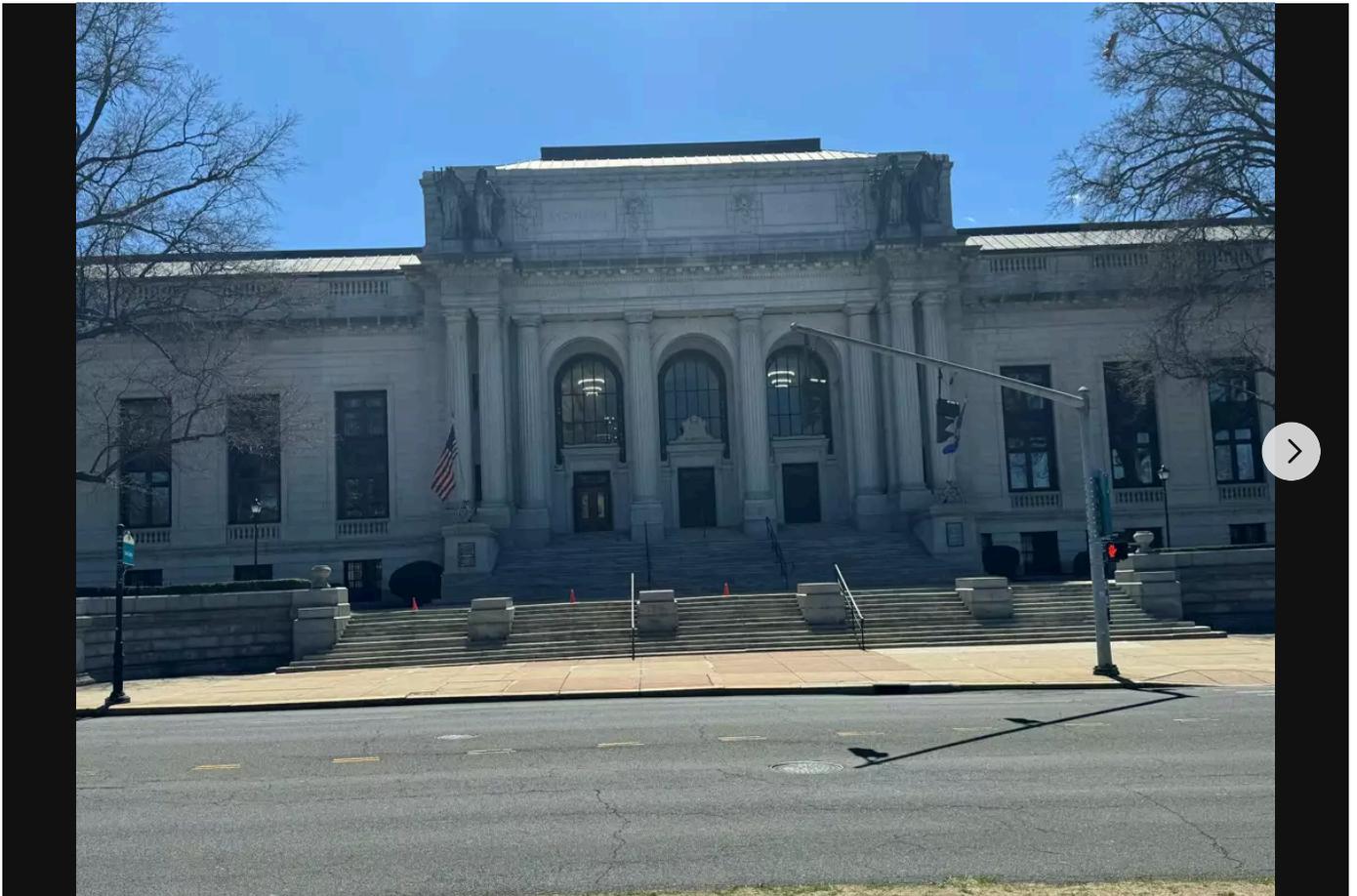
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NEWS // CONNECTICUT

# Connecticut State Library to lose \$1.2 million in federal funding via Trump cuts

By **Jordan Nathaniel Fenster**, Staff writer

April 9, 2025



The Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court building in Hartford, April 9, 2025.  
Ken Dixon/Hearst CT Media

The Connecticut State Library is losing \$1.2 million in federal funding that has already been allocated.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services informed the state library that a \$2.2 million federal grant awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act has been terminated as of April 1. Of the total \$2.2 million, 56 percent has yet to be dispersed, meaning the state library system stands to lose \$1.2 million. The grant was intended to support the library's activities for the current fiscal year, ending Sept. 30.

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"We are deeply dismayed by this decision, which has immediate negative impact on every Connecticut resident and the library services they count on," State Librarian Deborah Schander said in a news release. "The Connecticut State Library remains committed to advancing the mission of libraries across the state and throughout our communities. In the meantime, we are exploring all options to ensure these vital services continue."

The Connecticut State Library is not alone. As of April 3, grants were terminated in California, Connecticut and Washington, according to the American Library Association.

"Withdrawing library grants is a callous move at any time, but downright cruel at a time when it's getting harder for many Americans to make ends meet - most of all, in small and rural communities," ALA President Cindy Hohl [said in a news release](#). "The White House may have no qualms about slashing opportunity for jobseekers, students, veterans and families, but Congress has the power to restore support for services their constituents rely on. It's time for elected leaders to show up for our libraries."

The IMLS was one of several federal agencies that were to be dismantled following a March 14 executive order signed by President Donald Trump.

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Connecticut is among 20 states that signed onto a lawsuit filed April 4 in federal court alleging that the loss of the IMLS and other agencies and the grants they oversee will put many programs at risk across the country.

"The sudden halting of the agencies' work after decades of close cooperation will immediately put at risk hundreds of millions of dollars in grant funding on which the states depend, and undermine library programs, economic opportunity, and the free flow of commerce throughout the country," the lawsuit says.

“We had to sue to stop Trump from defunding our schools and cancer cures, from defunding energy assistance and vaccines, from defunding disaster relief and the police. Now, we have to sue again to stop him from defunding summer reading programs and audiobooks for disabled veterans,” Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said in a news release. “This is more lawless and needless hurt inflicted on Connecticut families and workers, and we’re fighting back with everything we’ve got.”

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Jordan Nathaniel Fenster is a reporter with CT Insider. He's worked as a journalist covering politics, cannabis, public health, social justice and more for 25 years. Jordan's work has appeared in The New York Times and USA Today in addition to multiple regional and local newspapers. He is an award-winning reporter, podcaster and children's book author. He serves as senior enterprise reporter and lives in Stamford with his dog, cat and three daughters. He can be reached at [jordan.fenster@hearstmediact.com](mailto:jordan.fenster@hearstmediact.com).

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