

Clarion Ledger

LOCAL

It's National Library Week. The Mississippi Library Association isn't celebrating



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Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- President Trump issued an executive order that eliminated funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- The Mississippi Library Association says the cuts will impact programs and services at libraries across the state.
- Among the programs facing cuts are early childhood literacy programs, high-speed internet in rural areas and job search assistance.



It's National Library Week but in Mississippi, many [library systems](#) are still reeling from last month's cuts.

The [Mississippi Library Association](#) has no mention of this year's Library Week on its website.

Instead, there is a statement saying the group opposes a March 14 [executive order](#) issued by President Donald J. Trump, which has all but eliminated a number of federal agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"This decision threatens a critical program that provides essential funding for library services and programs across our state," the statement says. "Libraries receive just 0.003% of the federal budget, yet they provide essential services that benefit all Mississippians."

Mississippi: [Library users feel federal funding freeze day after IMLS staff suspended](#)

For now, many of the cuts are to the libraries' digital services, such as Hoopla, an online book-lending app that allows libraries to offer online reading to their patrons.

In some areas of Mississippi, access to Hoopla was terminated immediately. In others, the number of books a reader can check out through Hoopla was reduced. Libraries must pay a fee to use the service. In Hattiesburg, that number fell from six books per month to four.

Other library programs and services that could be affected by the cuts, according to the Mississippi Library Association:

- Early childhood literacy programs
- High-speed internet in rural areas
- Job search assistance
- Access to technology

"These cuts represent more than \$600,000 in funds that directly support local libraries through the Grants to States program, which also provides statewide databases for reference services, Talking Book Services for those who are visually impaired, computers and Wi-Fi, eBooks and audiobooks, cataloging, interlibrary loan, collection management and more," the association said.

Libraries are under siege: [How Trump's cuts put community hubs in peril](#)

The MLA said libraries also may find the cuts limit their ability to:

- Purchase books
- Maintain technology
- Attend professional training
- Provide essential services

According to the Mississippi Library Association, there were more than 4.3 million in-person visits to Mississippi libraries in 2024. There are approximately 3 million

residents in the state.

Read more: [American Library Association's FAQs on Trump's executive order.](#)

Other agencies affected by the executive order, Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy:

- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
- United States Agency for Global Media
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the Smithsonian Institution
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Community Development Financial Institutions Fund
- Minority Business Development Agency

See how it affects the state: [DOGE pulls federal funding for Mississippi Humanities Council](#)

Bonnie Bolden, Deep South Connect reporter for Mississippi, contributed to this story.

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