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Trump admin. terminates California State Library's \$15.7M grant. How it impacts 'critical programs'

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Digital Producer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California State Library said that a \$15.7 million grant was terminated on April 1 by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The federal grant, worth \$15,705,702 to be exact, was awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Rebecca Wendt, California's deputy state librarian, told KCRA 3 that they received a letter that cited an executive order from President Donald Trump in canceling "non-statutory" required activities and functions. She said the grant **was authorized by statute.**

According to the California State Library, more than 21% of the grant's funding has yet to be sent to California, about \$3.4 million that has been promised. The funding is used to assist local California libraries and branches across the state in providing services such as literacy initiatives for children and adults, reading programs for veterans and work-readiness.

"We are deeply disappointed by this ill-informed decision, which immediately affects critical programs supported by these funds," said Rebecca Wendt, California Deputy State Librarian. "The reasons are not valid."

Wendt told KCRA 3 that the grant also pays for 34 jobs at the California State Library and many Braille and audio books. It also impacts a recently announced E-book initiative, she said.

"If there is no alternative funding source, immediately, there are going to be impacts on the local level because they are going to have to scramble to backfill programs that we are paying for that they are relying on," she said. "Local libraries are like 94% local funding, but there's that 6% that's the icing on the cake that helps them. It's a shared resource. They don't have to worry about it year after year. By Oct. 1, that stuff's gone."

Gov. Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta on Monday **announced a lawsuit against the Trump administration over the grant's termination.**

According to the lawsuit, IMLS put 85% of its staff on administrative leave, "dramatically curtailed the administration of hundreds of grants and grant applications, and terminated

statutorily mandated grant awards to several states.”

[Read the lawsuit here.](#)

Without the funding support of IMLS, programs that support 800,000 blind, visually impaired or dyslexic residents “are likely to end, and layoffs would ensue,” the lawsuit says.

KCRA 3 has reached out to IMLS for comment. The email for at least one media contact bounced back.

(Video below: 'Hands Off!' demonstrators against President Trump, Elon Musk protest across California and the US)



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--KCRA 3's Daniel Macht contributed to this story.

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