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Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Federal Funding March 2015

ALA's Position: The ALA asks the U.S. Congress to support the Administration's funding request for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of \$186.6 million for FY 2016.

On December 16, 2014, President Obama approved a \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill funding much of the federal government for FY 2015 (through September 30, 2015). This legislation partially restores funding to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) that was dramatically cut in FY 2013 under sequestration. In FY 2015, LSTA was funded at \$180.9 million.

President Obama sent his FY2016 budget request to Congress on February 2, 2015. In that proposed budget the President ask for a \$5.6 million increase to Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), requesting LSTA be funded at \$186.6 million next year. The increase is intended for the creation of a national digital platform to encompass all the people, infrastructure, content, services and software that together connect our users to our services and our collections online, and enable new forms of inquiry and exploration, 24/7. The platform connects us to each other and allows us to more effectively manage our data and information resources.

Currently the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are starting hearings and drafting the FY 2016 Appropriations Bill. A Dear Colleague Letter is being circulated to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees asking for support for LSTA.

Background:

LSTA is the primary source of annual funding for libraries in the federal budget. The bulk of this program is a population-based grant funded to each state through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Each state must match the federal funds and they then determine how they will allocate their LSTA funds, often relying upon this money to provide job searching databases, resume workshops, summer reading projects, and so much more. In addition, LSTA also supports:

- **Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services** to support improved access to library services for Native Americans, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiians;
- **National Leadership Grants** to support activities of national significance that enhance the quality of library services nationwide and provide pilots for coordination between libraries; and,
- **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians** which is used to help develop and promote the next generation of librarians.