Talking Points for ALA Advocates

2024 REQUEST SUMMARY

Please ask for appropriations staffer to request that their lawmaker:

- Support at least $211 million for Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) and $30 million for Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act (IAL).
- Reject cuts to LSTA in the House bill.
- Visit a library in the district and learn about the services provided to their constituents.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)

With bipartisan support, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 reauthorized the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. However, funding for LSTA remains below levels from FY 2010. LSTA is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

THE ASK

Provide at least $211 million for LSTA (Congress provided $211 million in FY 2024). With this, libraries can launch and sustain critical services for everyone in the community. (Please see separate ‘State Funding’ fact sheet to identify how much your state received in LSTA funding.)

HOW LIBRARIES USE LSTA FUNDS

- Offer 24-hour no-fee access to Wi-Fi, curbside delivery, hotspot and computer lending
- Provide early literacy programs and resources for parents and caregivers
- Facilitate access to telehealth care for seniors
- Offer coding classes and other STEM-related activities
- Support business development with expertise of technology & business librarians.
- Enable veterans to claim well-earned benefits to further their education, get medical treatment, start a business, and transition to civilian life
- Train school and public librarians to prepare students for today’s competitive job market
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LITERACY (IAL)

Innovative Approaches to Literacy is the only federal program dedicated to supporting school libraries. IAL is a competitive grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Grants support literacy materials for young children and training for the most in-need school districts at a time when student literacy performance has suffered from learning loss during the pandemic.

- At least 50% of IAL grants are required to support the work of school librarians.
- The 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Report Card showed lower reading scores for fourth and eighth grade students.
- IAL provides targeted literacy support for high-needs school districts and provides books for students to have at home.
- To date, 37 states and territories have received IAL competitive grants: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NE, NH, NM, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VI, WA, WI.

THE ASK

Provide at least $30 million in FY 2025 (funded at $30 million in FY 2024) to address urgent literacy needs.

Adapt these points above to your location and type of library as appropriate, inserting local examples.