

Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

## State of Tennessee



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Dear Tennessee Librarians,

If the Administration's proposed federal budget is approved as presented, Tennessee libraries will lose a significant amount of support and funding. The budget proposes to defund and eliminate the Institute for Museum and Library Services, which provides about \$3 million annually for Tennessee libraries.

Some of you have asked for guidance in what to say to your Congressional representatives about this matter. The following programs and services are paid for in part or in full by federal funds in Tennessee and would be jeopardized.

### **Tennessee Electronic Library – T.E.L.** (Statewide)

These funds pay for 50 of the 70 databases in TEL. These databases give Tennesseans of all ages access to job and career development resources; health and wellness information; newspaper, magazine, and academic journal articles; and reference content for Tennessee K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. In 2016, over 30 million searches were conducted in T.E.L. (\$838,000)

### **Book and Materials Funding, READS e-Books** (Regional Library System)

\$509,000 is distributed between 186 rural libraries and systems for the purchase children's titles, large print books, audio/visual materials, and e-books. An additional \$223,000 supports an online e-book and audio-book library serving those same libraries, in a program called READS. Users of all ages borrowed nearly three million titles from Tennessee READS last year. (\$731,800)

### **Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** (Statewide)

This small but critical program provides audio and braille books to persons in every county who cannot read standard print due to a physical or learning disability. Circulating approximately 1,000 items daily, this service is a lifeline for the 5,000 Tennesseans who use it. (\$71,500)

### **Library Technology Infrastructure** (Regional Library System)

The network of computer technicians who respond to service calls from libraries is funded with IMLS dollars. Additionally, from this fund we provide matching Tech Grants for the purchase of computers and related items by public libraries. The Statewide Library Catalog, which public libraries draw from in order to create their local catalog and to conduct interlibrary loan is also federally funded.

More information, including contact information for Congress searchable by zip codes, can be found on the ALA website [here](http://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/lookup?0&m=101044). ( <http://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/lookup?0&m=101044> )