
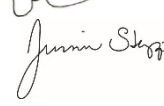




MEMO

To: Acting Director Sonderling, IMLS
From: Robyn Scribner, Chair, 
Jennie Stapp, State Librarian 
Subject: Request for Information
Date: April 30, 2025

The following information is in response to your April 21st request for information.

The Montana State Library, under the oversight and leadership of the Montana State Library Commission, takes seriously our obligation to comply with federal requirements that come with the acceptance of federal funds necessary to support libraries in Montana.

a. Whether and how federal taxpayer dollars provided to you under the Grants to States program have been used, or are still being used, to subsidize programs that conflict with government policy as found in executive orders identified in the information request.

The Montana State Library does not use any funds from the Grants to States program that conflict with government executive orders identified in the request for information.

b. How federal taxpayer dollars provided to you under the Grants to States program are being used to facilitate access to resources that cultivate an educated and informed American citizenry

In fulfillment of the purposes of the Library Services and Technology Act "to facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and informed citizenry" Montana State Library uses Grants to States funds to support core library systems, technology, and services that give Montanans access to the resources they need to become informed and educated citizens. One key initiative that facilitates access to resources is the Montana Shared Catalog, a digital card catalog available to Montana libraries, and a courier system that physically connects books and materials to many Montanans. These initiatives help libraries across Montana leverage private sector solutions to serve patrons. Grants to States dollars also fund the creation of and access to digitized historical documents and government publications important for civics education. Montana State Library supports public libraries through consulting, continuing education, technical support, and data reporting systems. This work ensures that library staff and board members are equipped with the skills and information needed to address the educational needs of their communities. Part of this work includes the Lifelong Learning program, which delivers tools and training designed to support families and



caregivers to improve early literacy among Montana's youngest learners. Finally, Grants to States dollars fund Talking Book services to provide Braille and digital books to people that cannot use print.

c. How you plan to involve your agencies in the upcoming celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America?

Montana statute designates the Montana Historical Society to be the agency responsible to oversee Montana's America 250 commemoration through the Montana 250 Commission. The Montana State Library and the Montana Historical Society will leverage our existing partnership to support the Commission's goals by utilizing the broad reach and resources of public libraries. Specifically, goal three of the Montana 250 Commission is the Montana Civics Education Initiative which seeks to increase participation in the United States civics test. Initiatives identified by the Commission that can be supported by public libraries include:

- Dissemination of study resources to 8th graders to pass the Montana civics test.
- Promotion of content from the Montana History Portal to support the "Doing History: Encouraging Student Civic Engagement in Montana" history poster contest for 4th and 5th grade students.
- Hosting the traveling interpretive exhibit "The Montana Tapestry: People and Places for 1776 to Today" that commemorates the semiquincentennial.

The role of the Montana State Library will be to create, promote, and support resources that contribute to the success of these initiatives through public library programming such as summer reading, to highlight historical resources found in library collections, and to provide the Montana History Portal application that allows local libraries, museums and archives to document the history and culture of Montana.