



Webside Chat with Jennie Stapp



| December 12, 2025

How We Gather

- Rename with Name and Library or Town
- Share Questions in Chat



Webside Chat



- MSL Updates
 - ARM updates and timelines
 - Open Hours
 - Certification
 - IMLS funding update
 - 2025 PLS collection and next steps
 - Congratulations to Tracy Cook!
 - Other good news
- Q&A

Open Hours Standard

December 10,
2025

Commission
took action
to adopt new
rules.

Dec 2025 –
Jan 2026

Follow
Secretary of
State's
schedule to
publish new
rules.

July 1, 2026

Effective
date

Open Hours Standard: Updated Rule

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective [effective_date]

AMEND WITH CHANGES

The agency has amended the following rules with the following changes from the original proposal, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

10.102.1159 SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- (1) The library is open during convenient hours. On average, the library is open the following number of hours weekly, as reported by the library in the annual public library survey:

<u>Service Area Population</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Fewer than 3,500	10.5 hours	25-40 hours
3,501 – 9,999	21 hours	40-50 hours
10,000 – 24,999	28 hours	50-60 hours
More than 25,000	35 hours	60+ hours

Certification: Timeline

December 10, 2025

- Commission took action to adopt new rules.

December 2025 – January 2026

- Follow Secretary of State's schedule to publish new rules.

January – February 2026

- Drop In/Q&A Sessions Scheduled

February – April 2026

- Subcommittee completes policy review and drafts new handbook

June 2026

- Commission takes action to adopt new handbook

July 2026

- Effective date of rules

Certification: New Rules

10.102.1160 PERSONNEL

- (1) Staff members are offered health insurance according to local policy.
- (2) Staff members are offered retirement benefits according to local policy.
- (3) The board adopts a sufficient budget for continuing education.
- (4) During 90% of open hours, paid staff are available to assist users.
- (5) Staff have the tools and training they need to perform their work.


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- (6) The director is or will be certified by the Montana State Library within the required timeframe mandated by the certification program adopted by the Montana State Library Commission.
 - (a) The purpose of the certification program is to ensure library directors have the foundational skills necessary to manage a public library that meets standards set forth in ARM Subchapter 10.102.11 Public Library Development.
 - (b) A course of study and topics offered by the State Library will be reviewed by the Commission annually for approval at its final meeting of the state fiscal year.
 - (c) Continuing education credits issued through the State Library certification program are the only eligible credits that can be applied to certification.
 - (d) The certification program will be reviewed on a regular schedule with no more than 10 years between reviews.

IMLS Reinstates Grants

NEWS RELEASES | December 3, 2025

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December 3, 2025

Statement of Agency's Reinstatement of Terminated IMLS Grants

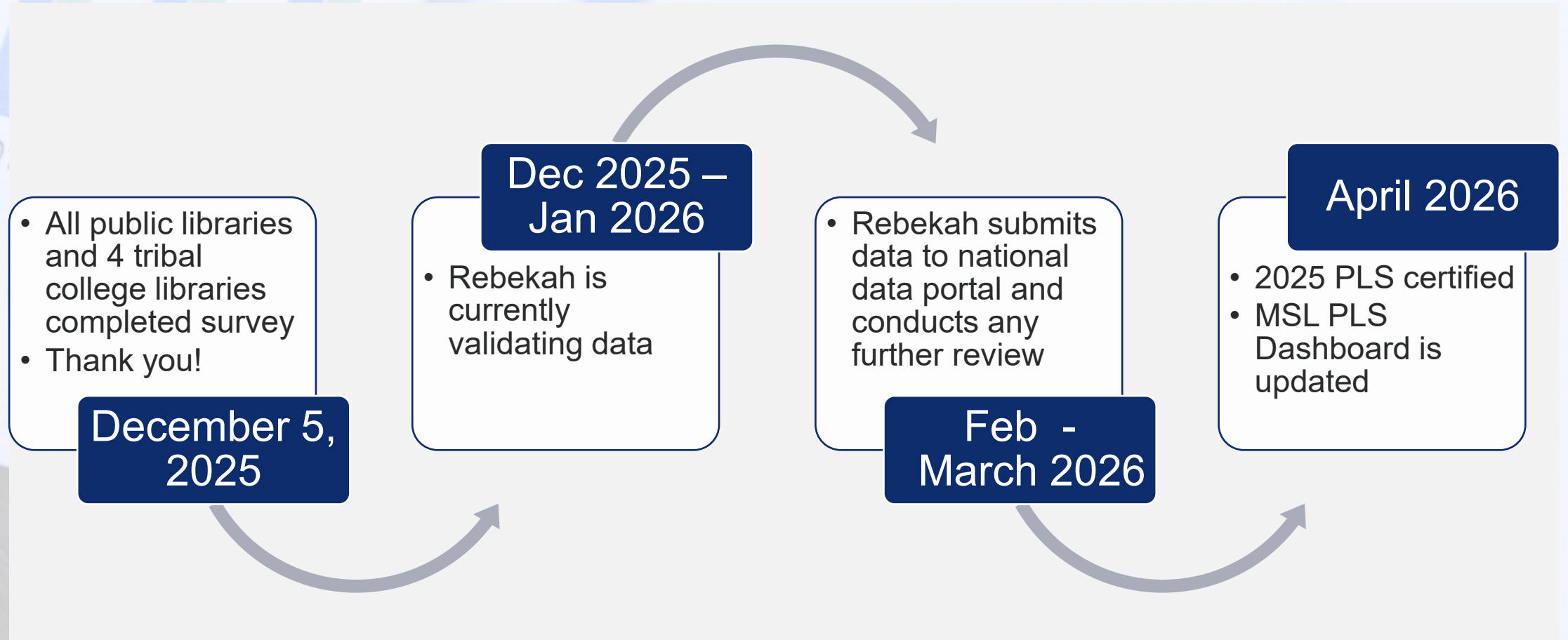
Washington, DC– Upon further review, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has reinstated all federal grants. This action supersedes any prior notices which may have been received related to grant termination.

Grantees should access the agency's electronic grants management system for further information.

On the horizon:

- Current continuing resolution expires January 31, 2026
- When will Congress pass an FY2026 budget?

Public Library Survey Progress



PLS Changes for 2026

Added

Total Number of Meeting Spaces Available to the Public

Number of Reservable Meeting Spaces Available to the Public

Number of Times Members of the Public Reserved Meeting Spaces

Deleted

Total Number of Asynchronous Program Presentations

Total Views of Asynchronous Program Presentations within 30 Days

Simplified

Virtual Programs

EMPOWERING LOCAL LEAD SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Our Own Tracy Cook Wins The Bridge Builder Award



Montana Local Government Center
40th Anniversary Gala
December 11, 2025

And in other good news

Incarcerated parents give the gift of recorded reading for the holidays



[KXLF News, December 1, 2025](#)

Cascade Food Bank feeds bodies and minds with free books for children



[Fox News, December 2, 2025](#)

Mark Your Calendar



January 13

- First Access and Usability Webinar

TBD

- Certification Policy Drop-In Sessions

Check the ASPeN Event Calendar and watch for newsletter updates

Questions?



MSL Evaluation Survey

<https://forms.office.com/g/ffUuzbA8gn>



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Next Webside Chat
TBD

