



New Rochelle Public Library Director's Letter to the Community

March 2025

Dear Friends,

I am writing to bring an urgent matter to your attention that profoundly impacts the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) and libraries throughout New York State.

On March 14, 2025, an Executive Order advancing the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was signed. This move imperils millions of dollars in federal grants to New York State that currently fund the operation of our State Library and other critical library services.

The services impacted are not abstract concepts—they have direct, tangible implications for NRPL. **We rely on these funds for essential programs such as our Summer Reading initiative and Capital Grants, which support critical facility improvements and special projects. The potential loss of this funding represents a significant threat to the resources that directly benefit our community.**

The 2025 Legislative Session is in full swing and New York's library community needs your help to secure key budgetary and legislative wins in the coming months. With the [Executive Budget](#) and [One House Budget Proposals](#) out, state leaders have until **April 1st, 2025** to finalize New York's FY 2026 budget. Now is the time for library supporters to ensure Governor Hochul, the Assembly, and the Senate ensure adequate funding for libraries makes the cut. [Click here to contact your elected officials via email and take action now!](#)

The New York State Library currently depends on \$8.1 million in federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States Program. This crucial funding supports an extensive network of over 7,000 libraries, 72 library systems, and the NYS Library itself. A potential cut to these funds would severely compromise critical library services.

The impact of this funding extends far beyond mere financial support. It encompasses:

- **Community Support Services:** Beloved programs like Ready to Read, Summer Reading, NOVELny, and professional development initiatives for library staff are directly sustained by this funding.
- **State Aid Distribution:** The State Library distributes \$104.6 million in State Aid, and manages \$45 million in Public Library Construction Aid. These funds are especially vital for small and rural libraries, helping them meet essential state standards and maintain operations.
- **Grants and Certification:** The State Library administers critical discretionary grants, including Conservation and Preservation Grants. Additionally, they manage public librarian certification and provide essential trustee training programs.

- **Research Library and Special Collections:** By preserving historical collections and offering expert research services, the NYS Library plays a crucial role in safeguarding New York's rich cultural heritage.

A Heartfelt Request

If you feel moved to support our library's mission, we would deeply appreciate any effort to raise awareness about the importance of library funding. For those interested, there are opportunities to contact local representatives and share why libraries matter so much to our community. Every voice has the potential to make a meaningful difference in preserving the resources that touch so many lives.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we work together to preserve and protect our community's library resources.

[Click here to contact your elected officials via email and take action now!](#)

Best regards,

Eugenia Schatoff
Director