

V. FEDERAL FUNDS

A.3 Finances – FY2024 Federal Budget Update – information item

Last month the Senate Appropriations Committee released its draft fiscal year 2023 funding bills. The bills would, for the first time in 26 years, provide federal funding to modernize library buildings nationwide. If enacted, the bills would provide \$20 million in new funding to improve public and Tribal library and museum facilities, distributed by IMLS, and to conduct a study of their physical condition. This is a crucial first step to support the Build America's Libraries Act that library supporters have advocated for.

The bills would also continue funding for other vital library programs, including a \$3.6 million increase for grants under the Library Services and Technology Act and a \$3 million increase for Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants.

The House Appropriations Committee approved its versions of the FY23 funding bills last month. Ultimately, the House and Senate will have to resolve the differences between their bills and pass them through both houses. Notably, the House bill does not include the \$20 million for library facilities.

Senate Appropriations Committee Republicans currently oppose the Democrats' drafts, and Democrats alone don't have the votes needed to advance the bills. Consequently, Congress is not expected to reach an agreement before the end of the current fiscal year, which would require a stopgap funding bill (a continuing resolution, or CR) in September. Congress will then return after the November elections and resume negotiations on these funding bills.