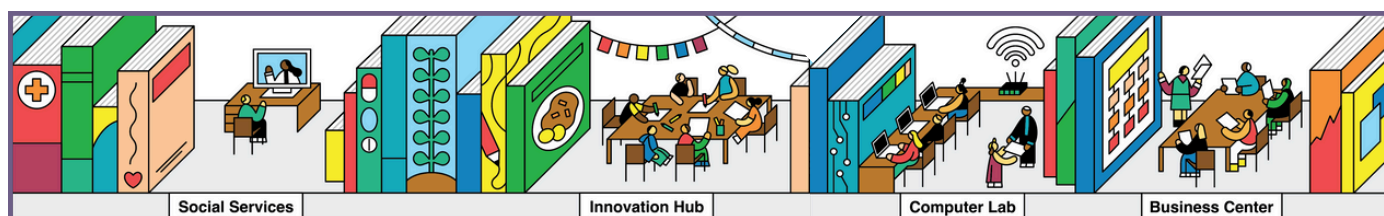


PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Pillars of Our Communities

The nation's public libraries anchor communities and serve as hubs for economic and community advancement. They provide critical resources across **employment, health, information access, literacy, civic engagement and social services** for everyone in our communities—jobseekers, small businesses, seniors, families with children, students and those bridging the digital divide.



Libraries in Action:

- **Science of Reading: Toledo Lucas County Public Library (OH).** Building on its decades-long commitment to early literacy, Toledo's librarians take part in an intensive two-year training that focuses on teaching essential skills all kids need to learn to become good readers. Reading specialists also meet with families in the community, offering ideas for things families can do at home.
- **Literacy and STEM Education: Virginia Beach Public Library (VA).** The Environmental STEM: Play and Learn initiative provides increased access to STEM learning opportunities for preschool-age children.
- **Small Business Education: Gwinnett County Public Library (GA).** The New Start Entrepreneurship Incubator (NSEI) supports the formerly incarcerated with business education through in-person classes, online coursework and a robust network of mentors. A pitch event at the end of the program offers participants the chance to win funding for their business ideas.

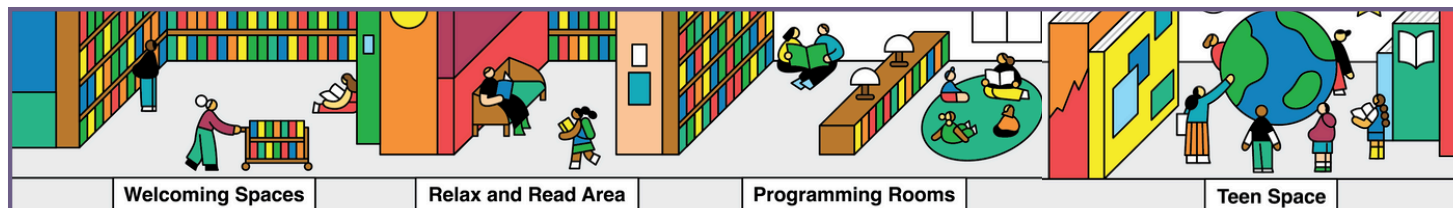
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) and Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) support IMLS as a federal agency that advances libraries' ability to serve their communities.

The IMLS research, state and competitive grants provide essential support for **literacy, digital literacy, inter-library loans and services for the blind and disabled** – especially in rural communities.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Pillars of Our Communities



Vital IMLS-Funded Programs:

- **HomeworkLa:** LSTA funds support HomeworkLouisiana (HomeworkLa), an online, after-school tutoring program available to all students in Louisiana from kindergarten through basic college level, and adult education in more than 60 subjects, including preparation for the GED. In addition, services offered include test preparation and job search assistance and resources.
- **Safe Routes to Public Libraries:** ULC, in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries and the Safe Routes Partnership, has a grant from IMLS to research how the Safe Routes to Schools model can be expanded to ensure routes to the public library for all children. Libraries provide the access to learning, programs, homework help and safe afterschool spaces.

Public libraries call on Congress to support adequate funding for IMLS and later this year to support reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act (MSLA) to expand the agency's impact.

Who We Are | Urban Libraries Council

The Urban Libraries Council is dedicated to strengthening and advancing the essential role of public libraries as dynamic, accessible places for opportunity, learning and innovation. We connect public library leaders and drive transformative change to enrich the lives of individuals and urban communities across North America.

ULC represents 189 member libraries across the United States and Canada, including in 40 states. Member libraries in the United States serve more than 86 million residents.