

The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) received a grant for \$249,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the National Leadership Grant for Libraries to help youth learn coding at 50 libraries through a program called Code Club for Small & Rural Libraries (<https://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded/lg-95-18-0024-18>).

Small and rural communities are at risk of being left behind as computer programming emerges as a critical skill and the gap in access to computer science education widens between urban and rural America. Code Club for Small & Rural Libraries seeks to enable the libraries in these communities to introduce coding to thousands of youth aged 8-14, which will help them gain the skills needed for college and career readiness and life success.

“As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”

The North Dakota State Library will partner with Prenda; the Association for Rural and Small Libraries; Linda Braun, the Young Adult Library Services Association Continuing Education Consultant and Librarians and Educators Online Project Management and Consulting Coordinator; and Crystle Martin, Director of Library and Learning Resources at El Camino Community College District. You can also learn more through the [official Facebook group](#).

Applications to participate are due July 16th and must be [completed online](#).