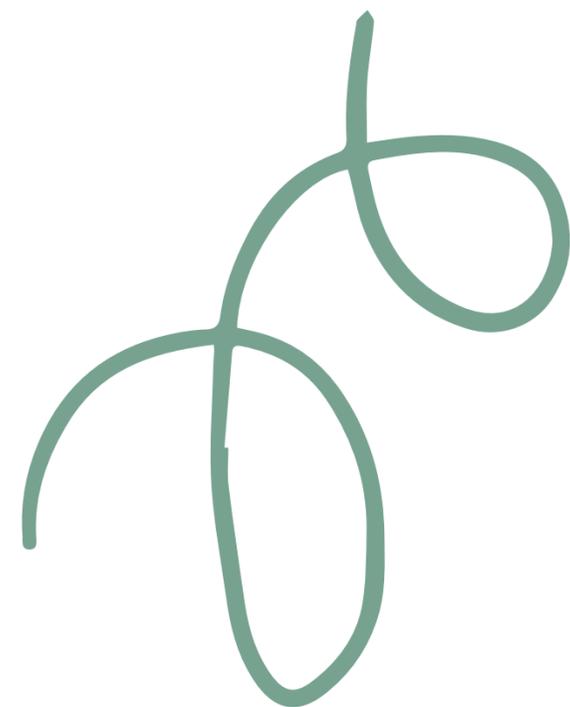






MARYLAND
LIBRARIES
HELPLINE



WHAT
WE'LL
GO OVER
TODAY



The Grant

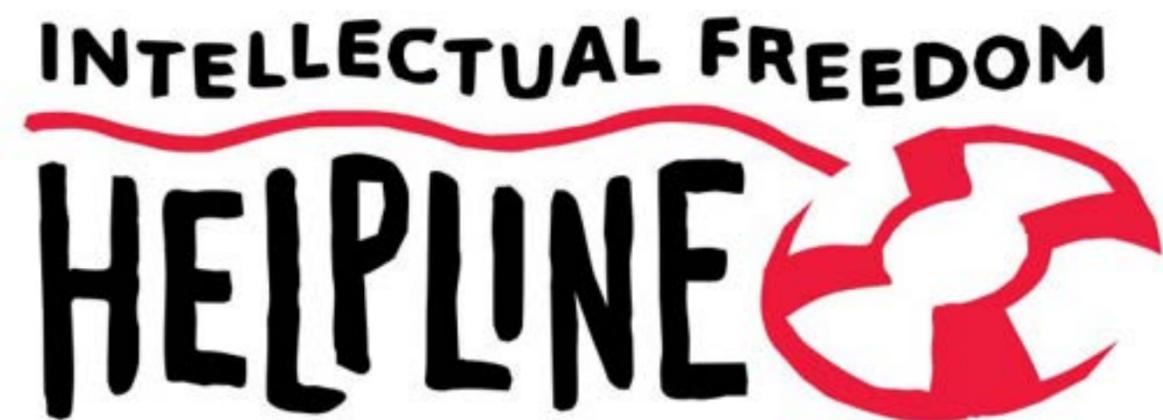
The Committee and its work

The Helpline and the Future

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Office of Intellectual
Freedom [ALA OIF]



THE GRANT APPLICATION

Current landscape of intellectual freedom issues in Maryland.

Our organization's current support activities.

How we plan to address the needs of different libraries and library types.

Why we're interested in this project.

Outline a plan for promotion,

How we will identify and recruit volunteers.

Plan for sustaining the Helpline after the two-year grant funds.





GRANT APPLICATION PARTNERS



MARYLAND
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION



— Maryland —
State Library
Agency



MARYLAND
— ASSOCIATION OF —
SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



CML Citizens for Maryland
LIBRARIES



MAPLA

Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators

AUGUST 2024



● Notice of Grant Award

Press release announcing that MLA was one of the grant awardees

- Start a helpline to support censorship attempts
- Funding can be used for programming
- \$10,000 budget
- Their only real expectation is for MLA to start a helpline and gather data

● Communication with ALA

ALA never distributed an official list because some of the other organizations are in contentious areas and preferred ALA to not widely share their receipt of the grant.

● Notice of other Awardees

ALA-PROVIDED SUPPORT

In Person Training

In-person training led by ALA OIF staff and subject matter experts. The convening of project leaders from the ten states selected took place with ALA staff in Chicago in October 2024. ALA covered Travel expenses and lodging and provided reimbursement for incidentals.

Support and Resources

- Access to a dedicated ALA Connect space for peer support and resources
- Toolkit developed and vetted by volunteers who have run successful state library Helplines
- Ongoing Zoom meetings, trainings, and consultations with OIF staff

THE COMMITTEE

Public Library Director

Regional Library Director

Academic Librarian

School Librarian

Public Librarian

State Library rep

Strong backgrounds and
experience in intellectual
freedom topics

Active in Maryland
libraries

Willingness to volunteer
and potentially train new
volunteers

Library type and
geographic diversity

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK



Procedures

What do we do when a submission comes in? Lots of FOIA considerations.

Job Description

Responsibilities, Requirements (personal, non-work email; current professional license; availability to respond to assigned inquiries within 24 hours; one-year commitment), Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

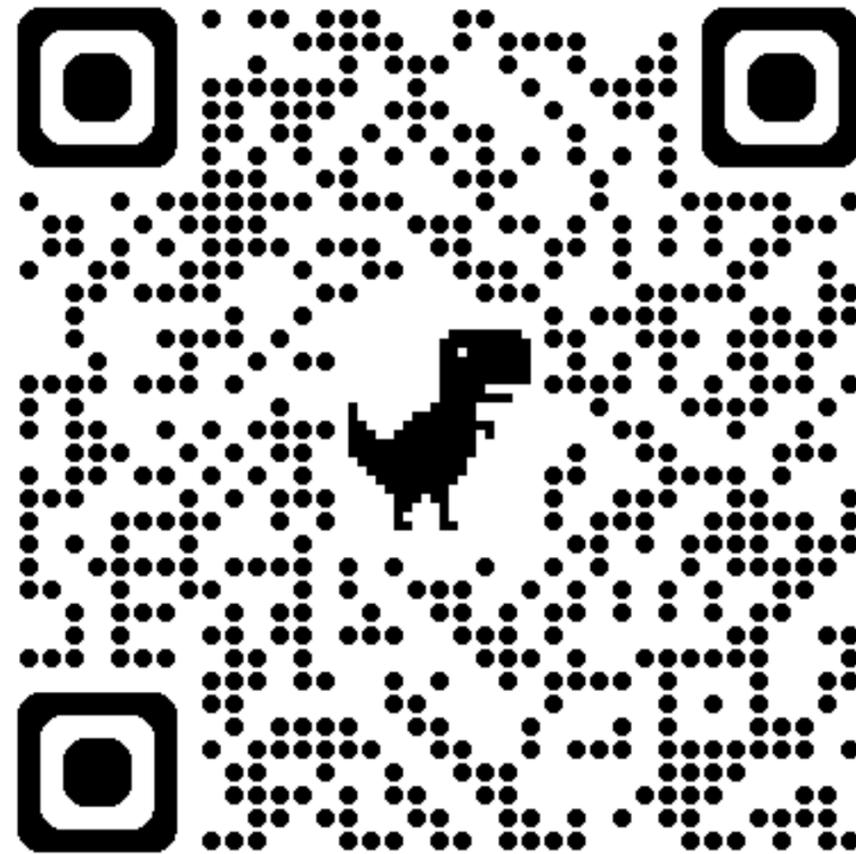
Design the Form

What is the person trying to censor? Location and when. Acting alone or part of a group. Relationship to the library. Requesting support or only reporting. Contact information. What type of support is the submitter looking for (if any)?

FAQ, best practices, and guidelines for volunteers to use when responding to form submissions

Resources, data, organizations for referral, data or support, potential verbiage, more FOIA guidance

[MEMBERS.MDLIB.ORG/HELP/LINE](https://members.mdlib.org/help/line)



Type of Intellectual Freedom Threat

What are you reporting?

Select all that apply.

- An attempt to censor books (including graphic novels and ebooks)
- An attempt to censor other materials (such as movies, music, or videogames)
- A challenge to a program
- A challenge to a display
- An issue with meeting room use
- Threats to or harassment of staff
- Other

Please describe the issue you are reporting.

Specify whether it was a formal or informal challenge. If materials were challenged, list the titles, authors, and formats.

Time and Place of Threat to Intellectual Freedom

When did this happen?

Estimate if the exact date isn't known.

Example: January 2, 2024

Where did this happen?

Source of the Threat to Intellectual Freedom

Was the instigator acting alone or as part of a group?

Characterize the individual's relationship to the library and identify any group or groups involved.

Describe the complainant's relationship to the library (customer, parent, Board member, elected official, school staff, community member, etc.) and any known group affiliations or groups affiliated with the challenge or complaint.

Contact Information

What is the personal email address where we can contact you?

Please provide a personal email address to protect the confidentiality of our communications. We encourage you to review your state's FOIA or Open Records laws concerning your personal email account.

Follow Up

Do you need our help?

Please selection the option that best fits how you would like follow-up.

We're Here for You

Describe what type of support you are looking for. If unsure, we will follow up.

This service is volunteer-run. Please allow up to three (3) business days for a response.

POTENTIAL SUPPORT EXAMPLES

Conflict or harassments

Ethical or professional
dilemmas

Job-related concerns

Advocacy or policy support

Legal guidance (non-
binding, not advice)

Help interpreting or
applying policy or ALA
guidance

Directing towards other
association or organization
groups or documents

Guidance, advice or
support on how to handle
scenarios with coworkers
or members of the public

Mentoring, listening and
reflecting

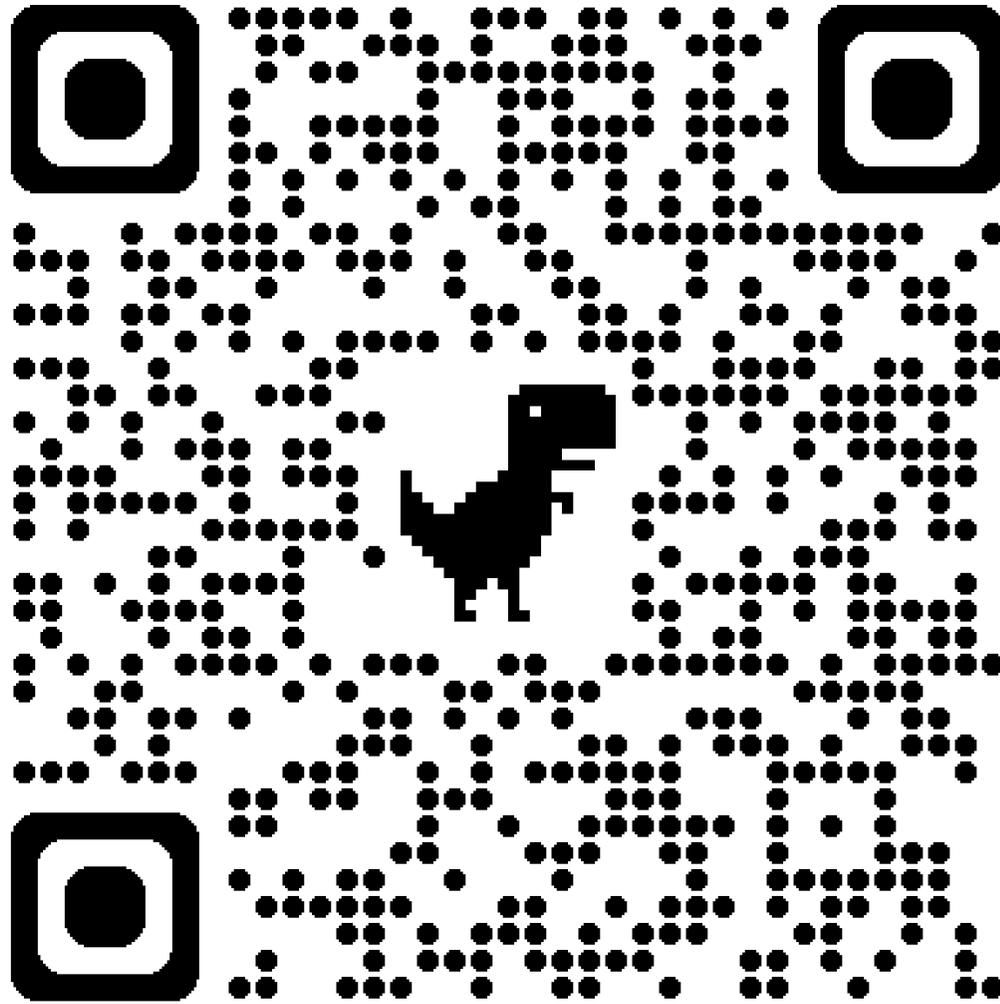
Messaging

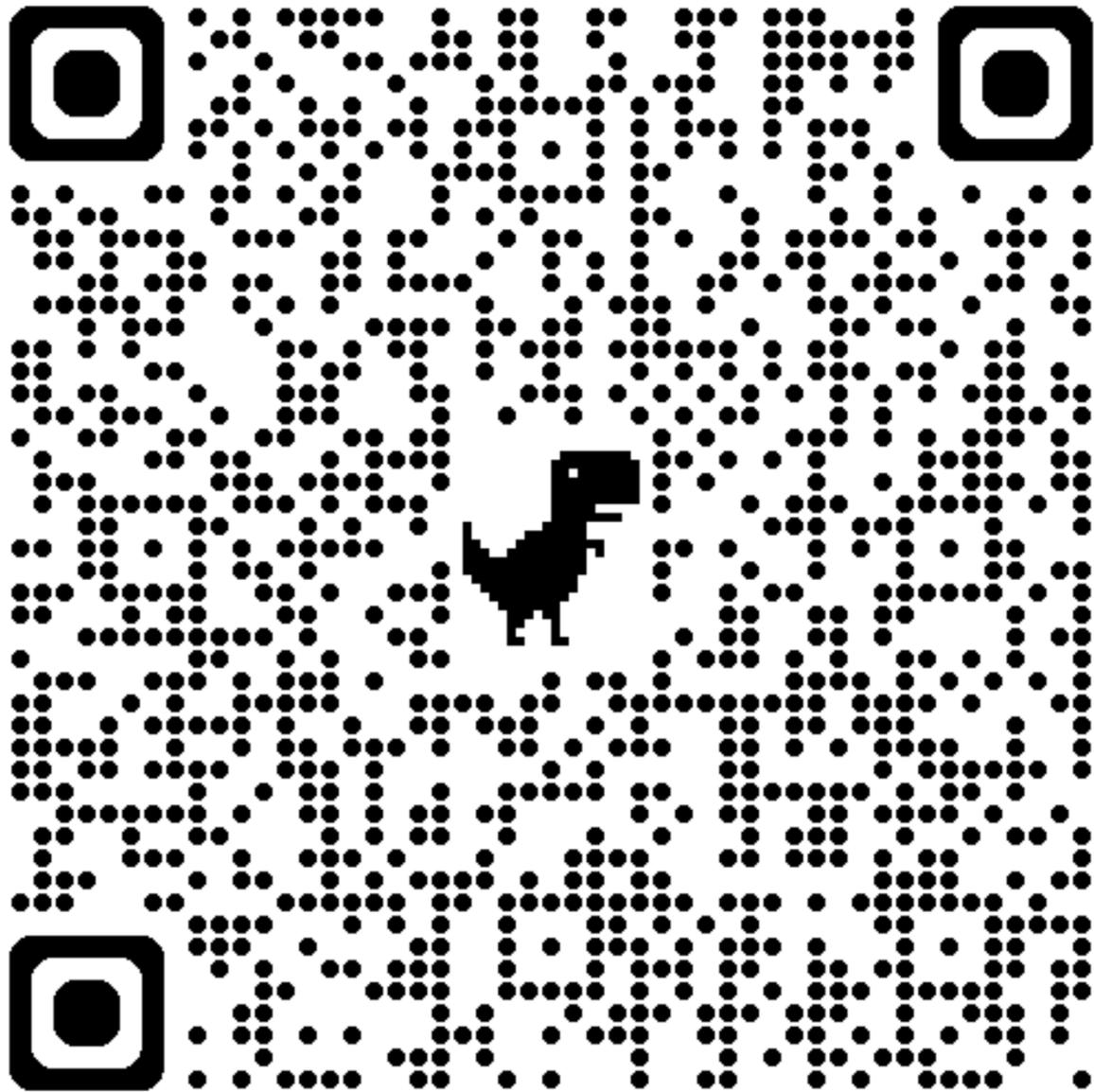
Appropriate resources



MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MLA'S LIBRARY ADVOCACY INTEREST GROUP





[https://bit.ly/
mdlibadvocacy](https://bit.ly/mdlibadvocacy)



THANK YOU.

Questions?



**Please take a moment to
complete the program evaluation.**



Scan Me

Thank You!

