

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

January 2022

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director

Jesse White awards nearly \$6 million to libraries Focused on Pandemic Recovery

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded nearly \$6 million to libraries focused on responding directly to the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying services, transforming spaces and developing resources for their local recovering workforce.

A total of \$5,740,350 funded 211 academic, school, special and public libraries, all of which received grants ranging from \$5,000 to more than \$1 million. A combination of funding sources provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), both from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and state technology funds were used to maximize the statewide impact.

Grants were awarded under three categories:

- **Bouncing Back from the Pandemic — Developing Resources for the Local Workforce:** Projects focus on providing essential resources so job seekers can access employment services and training to build the necessary skills to become job ready. Thirty libraries received \$730,730.
- **Expanding Digital Inclusion — Transforming Library Services:** Projects focus on restoring services and enhancing digital inclusion efforts focused on circulating internet hotspots, laptops and other devices that support pandemic recovery. Forty-seven libraries received \$809,409.
- **On the Road to Recovery — Transforming Library Spaces:** Projects focus on academic, public, school and special libraries that prioritize health and safety, while focusing on restoration of the library's capacity to operate and offer clean, safe library spaces while preventing the spread of COVID-19. One hundred thirty-four libraries received a total of \$4,200,211.

Winners of 17th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition receive awards

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded poets from Chicago and Naperville as this year's winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award in the 17th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition.

April R. Gibson of Chicago was awarded first place for her poem "Superstar." Aiman Ghani, also from Chicago, received second place for her poem "Mera Asmaan." Joanne Hsu of Naperville was the third-place winner for the second year in a row. Her poem was titled "Abacus."

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks and is part of the Illinois Center for the Book program at the State Library. Angela R. Jackson, Illinois Poet Laureate, served as the final judge of the competition.

The winners received plaques and cash prizes at an award ceremony at the Illinois State Library with the Illinois Poet Laureate. The winning poems are submitted for possible publication in "Ninth Letter," "RHINO" and "Quiddity" journals. Read the winning poems at ilsos.gov/departments/library/center_for_the_book.

FY 2022 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant applications due Feb. 15

The deadline to apply is **Feb. 15, 2022**. To be eligible for the Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant, a public library must show that it provides library services that either meet or show progress

toward meeting the Illinois Library Standards, as most recently approved by the Illinois Library Association (75 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/8.1 (1)).

The FY 2022 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application is a series of questions to determine the status of the library in relationship to “Serving Our Public 4.0 Standards for Illinois Public Libraries.” Review the checklist at the end of each chapter to navigate the application and evaluate if the library meets, is making progress toward meeting, or does not meet each standard.

2020 municipality populations have been certified by the Index Department and have been distributed to county clerk’s offices. The State Library has engaged the services of Southern Illinois University’s GeoMARC group to develop a mapping tool to overlay census data onto public library service areas. This should prove useful to public library districts. Please look for more information to come regarding this mapping tool. Until this tool is available, public library districts can use their 2010 service area populations on the application. All populations will be verified and updated if necessary before the grants are awarded.

FY 2022 grant information can be found at ilsos.gov/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html

Please direct questions to the Illinois State Library at percap-grant@ilsos.gov or 1-800-665-5576, ext. 2.

Live & Learn Construction Grant applications due Feb. 15

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is pleased to announce that applications for the FY 2022 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program are now open to public libraries. For information about the grant program, visit ilsos.gov/departments/library/grants/constructgrants.html.

The website provides access to the Live & Learn Construction Grant Program, requirements and a link to the grant application. Applications are due to the State Library on or before **Feb. 15, 2022**.

For more information, grant information webinar is available contact Mark Shaffer at mshaffer@ilsos.gov or Jake Magnuson at jmagnuson@ilsos.gov. A grant information [webinar](#) is also available.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) replaces DUNS

The requirement for institutions to have a DUNS number in order to receive federal funds is changing. Libraries registered in System for Award Management (SAM) registration at SAM.gov system have already been assigned a non-proprietary Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). [More information is available](#) to prepare for the transition from DUNS to UEI. This transition will impact every agency applying for federal grant funds, including Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funded projects that are awarded from the Illinois State Library. Agencies applying for grants in FY 2023 will be required to provide the UEI.

Seeking judges for “Letters About Literature in Illinois”

If you are interested to learn what kids are reading and thinking about these days, consider being a judge for “Letters About Literature in Illinois.” Judging is blind and takes place in the month of March. All judging takes place electronically.

For more information or questions about the competition or judging, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.gov.

Talking Book and Braille Service partnership with Chicago Public Library

Chicago Public Library (CPL) is once again partnering with the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service and the National Library Service for the Print Disabled. As an Advocacy and Outreach

Center (AOC), the CPL Assistive Resources and Talking Book Center – located at the Harold Washington Library Center – provides an array of services, resources, materials and technology that helps eliminate barriers for individuals with disabilities, including visual/physical disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing, limited-English proficiency persons and senior adults. The AOC also provides assistive technology stations each equipped with a variety of resources including: JAWS, Zoomtext, Fusion, Dragon, Kurzweil 1000, braille embossers, Perkins brailers, Topaz OCR video desktops, refreshable braille displays, video relay service and more. The AOC now provides reference, reader's advisory, outreach and walk-in service to Chicagoans registered for the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS).

2022 Illinois Public Library Annual Report Now Available

The 2022 IPLAR survey is now available. Each public library is required to submit the IPLAR 60 days after the library's fiscal year end. Public libraries will receive an email that explains this year's new questions. The new questions, added by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Public Libraries Survey (PLS), provide more detailed reporting for the programming section, including live virtual programming and age specific group programming of all types. As always, the instructions and survey are available on the [Counting Opinions Website](#). Library directors will receive a reminder email 60 days before the report is due for each library.

The 2021 IPLAR collection period ended on Sept. 1. This data will be loaded to the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS) Public Libraries Survey (PLS) during the spring of 2022. If you would like a copy of the 2021 data set, please contact Pat Burg at pburg@ilsos.gov.

Creating reports in Counting Opinions

Public libraries can create peer comparison and trend reports on various data points. Log in to the Counting Opinions website at <https://il.countingopinions.com/index.php>. Choose the Reports button, or Reports tab, at the top of the screen. Report instructions and documentation are located on the login screen. Please contact Pat Burg at pburg@ilsos.gov to request reports or to receive help.

Public Libraries Survey FY 2019

The Census Bureau has developed a [dashboard](#) in coordination with IMLS that combines FY 19 PLS with 2015-2019 American Community Survey data. The state-level data is pulled directly from the FY 19 Statistical Tables released earlier this year by the PLS. By interacting with the layers, users can drill down to public library building location and ACS statistics at the county level. The side panels allow users to view statistics for each state, in many cases normalized per person for better comparison across states (left side), or view all the library systems within a state and click on a link to imls.gov to access AE level data and downloadable PDFs (right side).

FY 2021 Illinois Statewide Delivery Service statistics

During FY 2021, the Statewide Delivery Service enabled the sharing of over 11.5 million items between public, school, special and academic libraries across Illinois, and increased access to information for Illinois residents. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the way that systems could deliver materials safely. As libraries reopened, systems responded to health and safety concerns by consulting national, state and local best practices, and member feedback. Examples included contact-free exchange points, logistical route changes, increased sanitation and personal protective equipment. Despite these challenges, delivery increased from 9.6 million materials delivered in FY 2020 to 11.5 million in FY 2021.

2022 Guide To The Secretary Of State Literacy Effort

The Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy Office has published the newest edition of the Guide to the Secretary of State Literacy Effort. The publication is currently available online at ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/dl18.pdf. A print version of the guide will be mailed out to all public

libraries and branches, Secretary of State Illinois State Library literacy grant recipients, Secretary of State Driver Services facilities, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly. The guide provides an in-depth overview of the literacy program, statistics from FY 2021 grant recipients, maps of service locations throughout the state, and a listing of all agencies who received FY 2022 Secretary of State Literacy grants. The listing provides location and contact information for each agency and can be used as a reference and referral guide for anyone seeking assistance with literacy issues.

Literacy Newsletter Available

The fall 2021 issue of **Illinois Literacy** newsletter is now available at https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/il-literacy-fall21.pdf.

Literacy programs are encouraged to submit stories and photographs of special events and achievements to the Illinois State Library Literacy Office for possible inclusion in upcoming issues. Please contact the Literacy Office at 800-665-5576, ext. 3, or email literacy@ilsos.gov if you have any questions.

FY 2021 Adult Literacy Grant Program statistics

Statewide statistics for the FY 2021 Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Literacy Grant Program are now available online. Adult Volunteer Literacy Grant Program statistics can be accessed at ilsos.gov/departments/library/literacy/adultvolstats.html; Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant Program statistics can be accessed at ilsos.gov/departments/library/literacy/famlitstats.html; and Workplace Skills Enhancement Grant Program statistics at ilsos.gov/departments/library/literacy/workplacestats.html.

Project Next Generation in Brimfield

The Brimfield Public Library's Project Next Generation (PNG): Imagine, Innovate, Inspire initiative is empowering students in rural Illinois to learn about a wide variety of careers while acquiring related technology skills. This year's PNG grant has allowed the library to purchase technology, including a telescope and 3D scanner, as well as partner with area schools and professionals from around the country to facilitate during and after-school technology-enhanced career exploration units. During the 11-month initiative, the library and experts in archaeology, astronomy, engineering, filmmaking, forensics, photography, and medicine are providing guidance as teens and tweens acquire new technology skills, develop their communication and problem-solving abilities, and prepare to pursue their academic, personal, and professional dreams. For more information about [Project Next Generation](#) grants from the Illinois State Library, contact Rita Stephens at 217-782-5506. PNG projects are funded using federal LSTA funds provided to the State Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

2022 Illinois Reads Book Festival

"Illinois Reads" is an annual statewide reading initiative of the Illinois Reading Council to promote Illinois authors and the importance of reading for Illinois citizens of all ages – from birth through adult. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the honorary chair.

The 2022 "Illinois Reads" program formally begins with a book festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Saturday, March 22, 2022, at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby**. This is a free family event, and any book lovers from across the state are welcome to attend. Add this event to your calendar and meet these fantastic authors.

E-News will highlight the 2022 ILLINOIS READS authors and book selections in upcoming issues.

2022 Illinois Reads Authors and Book Selections

Birth–4

"Babies Around the World Dancing" by Tamara Barker

“Bodies Are Cool” by Tyler Feder
“It’s So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-to-Bed-Book” by Sherri Duskey Rinker
“Three Squeezes” illustrated by Chris Sheban
“Time to Recharge, Harper!” by Kelly Leigh Miller
“Yo! Yes?” by Chris Raschka

Grades K–2

“Bear Island” by Matthew Cordell
“Hair Love” by Matthew A. Cherry
“June Almeida, Virus Detective!: The Woman Who Discovered the First Human Coronavirus” by Suzanne Slade
“Kindness is a Kite String: The Uplifting Power of Empathy” by Michelle Schaub
“Secret, Secret Agent Guy” by Kira Bigwood
“Ship in a Bottle” by Andrew Prahin

Grades 3–5

“Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants: The Questioners Book #2” by Andrea Beaty
“Fart Quest” by Aaron Reynolds
“Fiery Night: A Boy, His Goat, and the Great Chicago Fire” by Sally M. Walker
“Maya and the Robot” by Eve L. Ewing
“Simon B. Rhymin” by Dwayne Reed
“The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation” by Alice B. McGinty

Grades 6–8

“Amira & Hamza: The War to Save the Worlds” by Samira Ahmed
“Capsized!: The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster” by Patricia Sutton
“Scritch Scratch” by Lindsay Currie
“The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun’s Tomb” by Candace Fleming
“The Robber Girl” by Franny Billingsly
“The Shape of Thunder” by Jasmine Warga

Grades 9–12

“Amazons, abolitionists, and Activists: A Graphic History of Women’s Fight for Their Rights” by Mikki Kendall
“Come On In: 15 Stories about Immigration and Finding Home” by Adi Alsaid
“Girl on the Ferris Wheel” by Julie Halpern
“How to Pack for the End of the World” by Michelle Falkoff
“Kingdom of Souls” by Rena Barron
“You Know I’m no Good” by Jessie Ann Foley

Adult

“How to Write One Song” by Jeff Tweedy
“Noor” by Nnedi Okorafor
“Sidelined: Sports, Culture, and Being a Woman in America” by Julie Di Caro
“The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch” by Miles Harvey
“The Lucky One: A Novel” by Lori Rader-Day
“The Talented Miss Farwell: A Novel” by Emily Gray Tedrowe

Literacy Spotlight

This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights the **Howard Area Community Center** in **Chicago**. A woman came to the United States in 2013 from Afghanistan with her 6-month-old daughter. For the first three years, the woman was a stay-at-home mom. In 2016, she started at Howard Area Community Center, where her daughter could also attend childcare. The woman had no formal education but proved to be a diligent, committed learner, working with two different tutors on English-language development and

citizenship preparation. She quickly advanced several grade levels, and because of her leadership potential and work ethic, she was promoted to Howard's Peer Leader Council. She was then hired to provide early childhood instruction and to work with parents in the Family Literacy program. She has gained confidence and has developed a greater capacity to provide material and educational support for her family.

State Library's comprehensive online calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit ilsos.gov/departments/library/calendar/home.html.

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