

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

April 2022

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian

Greg McCormick, Director

Jesse White awards more than \$1.4 million in grants to school libraries

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than \$1.4 million in FY 2022 School District Library Grant Program awards to 672 public school districts. More than 1.5 million Illinois students served by school library media programs will benefit from the grants. From FY 2022 appropriations approved by the General Assembly and the Governor, school library grants were awarded based on a formula of \$.885 per student, with a minimum grant award of \$850. The School District Library Grant Program is used for:

- Fiction and/or non-fiction books
- Educational CDs and DVDs
- Library subscriptions
- Electronic resources
- New computers
- Wi-Fi connectivity improvements

Find more information about the grant program at:

ilsos.gov/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html.

Public Library Construction Act Grant (PLCAG) Program applications being accepted

The Illinois State Library is accepting applications for the PLCAG Program for FY 2023, with those applications due on or before April 15. The State Library has been accepting applications for this program every year since the inception of the program in FY 2012. To be considered for funding, applications and all required supporting documentation must be submitted electronically to construct-grant@ilsos.gov. Information on the required supporting documentation, as well as an overview of the program to include program rules and regulations, can be found at [Public Library Construction Grant Program \(ilsos.gov\)](https://ilsos.gov/public-library-construction-grant-program). The Illinois State Library is making grant applications available for this program prior to the availability of funds. Obligations to fund this grant program are contingent upon the Illinois General Assembly appropriating sufficient funds for the program. For more information on the program, please contact the Illinois State Library's construction grant team at construct-grant@ilsos.gov or at 800-665-5576, ext. 2.

Unique Entity Identifier required for federal grant funds from the State Library

Libraries applying for FY 2023 grants that are funded with federal funds may receive an email requesting their agency's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) if it is not currently on file at the Illinois State Library. Since 1998, the federal government – including the Institute of Museum and

Library Services – has used a Dunn and Bradstreet number (DUNS) to identify and validate agencies receiving federal grant funds, including Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) monies. The UEI, provided through SAM.gov, is positioned to take the place of the DUNS starting in April 2022. If your library is registered in SAM.gov, a UEI has already been assigned to your agency. This includes inactive registrations. If your agency is not currently registered in SAM.gov, there is an option to [request a UEI](#) and provide basic information about your organization without having to complete the full registration and certification process. To be eligible for grants from the Illinois State Library, the UEI is required ([Unique Entity Identifier from SAM.gov](#)); however, the full SAM.gov registration is not. If you have questions, please contact the Illinois State Library, Library Development Group at 800-665-5576, ext. 2.

Talking Book and Braille Service eligibility standards updated

The National Library Service (NLS) – and by extension, the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) in Illinois – has updated its eligibility standards. While children and adults with a “perceptual or reading disability” have previously qualified for services, they were required to have a medical doctor as the certifying authority for eligibility. The change in standards has an expanded list of professionals who may certify eligibility for services to include certified psychologists, educators, certified reading specialists and school psychologists. This is great news for parents and educators who are seeking additional support services for students who have reading disabilities. To see the full list of eligibility and certifying requirements, visit the Library of Congress NLS website at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/eligibility-for-nls-services/>.

18th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Entry forms are now available for the 18th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. The competition is named in honor of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Illinois Poet Laureate Angela Jackson.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2022. Cash prizes will be awarded for first (\$500), second (\$300) and third place (\$100). Winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in the *Ninth Letter* literary arts journal, *Quiddity International Literary Journal* and Public Radio Program, and *RHINO Poetry* magazine. Winners of the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition have gone on to achieve success, including winning other prestigious competitions, writing screenplays and publishing their own books, just to name a few.

Entry forms can be found at ilsos.gov/departments/library/center_for_the_book/emerging-writers.html. For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book Coordinator Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or at bmatheis@ilsos.gov.

2022 “ILLINOIS READS” author spotlights

[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, six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators are selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the honorary chair, and the [Illinois Center for the Book](#) is a program partner.

The Birth-4 Years Authors and their 2022 ILLINOIS READS Books are:

Born and raised in Canada, Tamara Barker now lives in Chicago. She loves writing children's picture and board books that will make you laugh, smile and want to dance, and her debut book, “Babies Around the World: Dancing,” does just that.

Tyler Feder is a Chicago based full-time illustrator. She has illustrated for Netflix, Comedy Central and ESPN. Her book, “Bodies are Cool,” is a cheerful love-your-body picture book for preschoolers and has received starred reviews from Kirkus, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal and Booklist.

New York Times bestselling author Sherri Duskey Rinker is a graphic designer and native Chicagoan. Her book, “It’s So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-to-Bed-Book,” is a silly bedtime story about one little mouse that can't get to sleep because it's just – TOO QUIET!

Northbrook’s award-winning artist Chris Sheban is the illustrator of the children’s book “Three Squeezes” written by Jason Pratt. Sheban is known for his soft dream-like illustrations that are the perfect complement to this rhyming Kirkus starred book.

Kelly Leigh Miller is a cartoonist and the author-illustrator of several children’s books. She lives in Chicago. Her book, “Time to Recharge, Harper!” tells the story about Harper, a busy little robot that does not like to slow down and recharge. This book is a great read aloud before naptime.

Caldecott-winning illustrator Chris Raschka lives in Chicago. He writes his own books and sometimes illustrates books for others. His book, “Yo! Yes?” is a Caldecott Honor Book that shows the conversation of two young boys, one black and one white, who form a new friendship.

Library of Congress offers summer internships for teens

The Library of Congress is offering a summer internship program for teens, especially those who are working in libraries. The program is designed for individuals interested in working with programming centered on primary sources and literature in a library setting. This year’s program

is a hybrid format with students attending virtually and in person. The program is open to current high school students or high school students graduating in 2022. This intensive three-week unpaid summer internship opportunity will focus on learning about the Library of Congress and helping the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement develop and create teen-oriented content to support the **2022 National Book Festival**. For more information, visit <https://www.loc.gov/item/internships/virtual-high-school-student-summer-intensive-volunteer-program/>.

Eric Edwards spotlighted by the Illinois Library Association

Eric Edwards, the interlibrary loan librarian at the State Library, has been spotlighted as a member of the Illinois Library Association. Eric has worked at the State Library since 2015. Previously, he was public services librarian at Benedictine University's Springfield campus from 2008 to 2015. He holds an MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and he also earned a B.A. in political science. Active in the library profession, Eric has served as president of the Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum. A profile of Eric can be found at [Member Spotlight - Eric Edwards - Illinois Library Association \(ila.org\)](#). Congratulations, Eric, for your well-deserved recognition.

Literacy Spotlight

A man and his wife immigrated to this country and enrolled at Howard Area Community Center, located in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. He is working toward U.S. citizenship, and he spends his tutoring time preparing for the interview, reviewing civics questions, and practicing the reading and writing portions of the citizenship test. He also devotes time working on his language and English-speaking skills. The improvements he has made have helped him in his job. He can better communicate with his co-workers and feels more comfortable in daily life activities, like taking a bus. Staff at the center believes that his continued growth and ability will translate into success in fulfilling his dream of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Salute to veterans

Dan Walker enlisted in the Marines and served from 1968 to 1970, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he earned the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. His oral history on the Illinois Veterans History Project YouTube Channel stresses his day-to-day focus on surviving in a combat zone. [Oral History Interview with Dan Walker - Illinois Veterans History Project - Bing video](#).

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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