



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

### ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **March 10, 2000**
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### **Educate & Automate Grants Strengthen Library Technology**

**SPRINGFIELD** — Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that he is awarding more than \$1.5 million in "Educate & Automate" grants to enable Illinois Libraries to purchase computers and other technology.

The grant program is designed to improve access to electronic information, develop and expand electronic library networks, upgrade hardware and software, and provide assistive and basic technology for the use of library patrons.

"Educate & Automate grants help meet the needs of library patrons by supplementing local library funds to improve public access to electronic information and upgrade technology," said White, who also serves as State Librarian.

The Illinois State Library received more than 675 applications for this round of Educate and Automate funding. A total of 594 applicants were awarded more than \$1.5 million.

Grants totaling \$81,046 were awarded to 44 libraries for the purpose of providing Internet access to the public.

\$536,798 was awarded to 50 libraries for the purchase and installation of new local area networks, with 25% of the funding coming from the applicants.

Fifty percent funding was awarded to libraries for the expansion or enhancement of existing local and wide area network. The maximum award to any one library was \$30,000. Forty-three libraries were awarded a total of \$280,120.

"Fast Start" funds were awarded in two categories. One hundred-ninety five libraries received \$431,113 to provide assistive technology to patrons with disabilities, while 262 libraries were awarded a total of \$181,735 for the purchase of basic equipment including phones, answering machines, printers and typewriters.

Educate & Automate grants are awarded annually on a competitive basis. The grants are funded by a portion of fees collected by the Secretary of State's office for business-related services.

[Educate & Automate Grants](#) – PDF