



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **September 18, 2000**
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White Awards \$7.6 Million During Literacy Month

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced today that agencies and businesses providing basic skills instruction to adults and families throughout Illinois will receive \$7.6 million in literacy grants.

White made the announcement as a part of activities highlighting September as Literacy Month. Using the theme 'Adults Can Go Back To School Too,' White wants adults to see they are the change agents not only for themselves, but for their children as well.

"Our literacy programs in Illinois help adults and families improve their reading, writing, math and English," said White. "In addition, we have built partnerships with businesses to provide skills training for prospective employees. By teaching people the basic skills they need, we are helping them function effectively as workers, parents and citizens in our communities."

The Secretary of State funds many different types of literacy programs including adult volunteer programs, workplace skills enhancement programs, making work pay programs, family literacy programs and new chapters programs. Each program depends on local support and partnerships to help identify students, recruit volunteers and provide in-kind resources to stretch the grant funding.

While all of the literacy programs help adults and families improve their reading and basic skills, each is designed to help people improve their lives in a different way. Through the making work pay program, grant funding is provided to

businesses to train and hire prospective employees. In the new chapters program, literacy and job skills instruction is provided through domestic violence shelters to help women trying to escape abuse gain economic independence.

"These literacy grants have proven to be a wonderful investment for the state," said White. "The partnerships we have created throughout the state have provided new opportunities for thousands of people."

A list of agencies and businesses receiving literacy funds is attached. For more information about the programs, contact Secretary of State Jesse White's Literacy Office at 217-785-6921.



[FY2001 Literacy Grants](#)