



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

## ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **September 25, 2000**
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### **White Awards \$13.3 Million in Public Library Grants**

**SPRINGFIELD** — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White today awarded more than 600 Illinois public libraries a total of \$13.3 million in Fiscal Year 2001 per capita and equalization aid grants.

Per capita grants provide up to \$1.25 per person based upon the population served by eligible public libraries, allowing the libraries to improve and increase essential services. Equalization aid grants assist public libraries in districts with a low tax base, and help ensure a minimum level of funding for library services. Both per capita and equalization aid grants may be used for any purpose but construction needs.

"These grants, which are appropriated each year by the General Assembly, will allow libraries both large and small to add to their collections, enhance their technology and provide a wider array of services to library patrons," White said. "Many public libraries depend on this assistance for essential needs."

White cited several examples of how public libraries plan to use the grants:

- --After determining that as much as 15 percent of its population is now of Hispanic descent and reads Spanish, the Sterling Public Library will use part of its grant to purchase additional bilingual and Spanish language materials.
- --The Vernon Area Public Library District in Lincolnshire will install six new Internet workstations to meet public demand.
- --The Martinsville Public Library District will use a portion of its funds to provide Internet training to instruct the public

about how to obtain information on the Internet.

- --The Charleston Carnegie Public Library will use a portion of its funds to open on Sunday with three staff members on hand.

"Our public libraries are cornerstones of our communities," said White. "Libraries provide educational and recreational opportunities that enrich and enlighten the lives of citizens young and old. I am committed to doing all I can as State Librarian to keep our public libraries strong and vibrant in the coming years."

A list of grants being awarded is available in PDF format below.

[FY2001 Public Library Per Capita & Equalization Grants PDF](#)