



Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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- CONTACT: Dave Druker
- CONTACT: Randy Nehrt

White Awards LSTA Grants to 265 Illinois Libraries

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced today that he is awarding Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants totaling \$2.5 million to 265 Illinois libraries.

"LSTA grants are some of the most important grants awarded by my office because they enable libraries to develop new programs and services and share information and resources with other libraries," White said. "Illinois librarians are constantly striving to improve the services they offer to their patrons. Their vision, commitment and professionalism make our communities stronger."

Libraries apply for the LSTA funds through the Illinois State Library, which then awards grants to academic, school, public and special libraries across the state. Libraries use the money to create new services and programs, share collections, holdings and statewide databases, train library staff and expand the role of networks, consortia and partnerships.

White said the \$2.5 million being awarded in the latest round of LSTA grant offerings involves two specific programs: the "Grow with a Pro!" program and the "Do You Have a Dream for Your Library Community?" program. Libraries can use grant money to obtain professional assistance to enhance library services, replicate a program that's been successful elsewhere, expand hours, or address other needs that are specific to that community.

"These two initiatives encourage innovation and creativity among libraries in meeting the needs of their patrons," White said. "LSTA funds are specifically designed to encourage the development of new services and promote greater interaction among libraries to benefit the citizens we serve.

"Over the years, Illinois libraries have been extremely creative in proposing new local programs and initiatives with this funding. I'm proud to be a part of a community of librarians who are enriching all of our lives."

DO YOU HAVE A DREAM FOR YOUR LIBRARY COMMUNITY GRANTS

GROW WITH A PRO GRANTS